

Summer Greetings from



**Sarnia
Community
Foundation**

2024 Women OF EXCELLENCE Awards



On June 6, 2024, the Foundation hosted the 8th edition of the Women of Excellence (WOE). This year's recipients included Susan Chamberlain, Marilyn Gifford, Jeannette Douglas and Parents for Parks (Laurel Pickel-Kittmer, Erin Miller Hawryluk, Emily Bright, Emily Denham Weed). Kathy Alexander, Executive Director at Bluewater Health Foundation delivered a powerful keynote message about women's health and importance being knowledgeable on SCAD (Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection). Andrea Dicks, President Community Foundations of Canada made an opening address to the full capacity of attendees. The Foundation presented Kathy with \$4000 in proceeds from the WOE (\$2000.00 to Cardiac Care and \$2000.00 Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Treatment Centre). The Foundation would like to thank all the Sponsors, Fund Holders, and the Dante Club for an amazing day of celebration, empowerment and making our community stronger.



Rotary Club of Sarnia Extravaganza

On Saturday, July 20, 2024, The Rotary Club of Sarnia hosted the 2nd annual extravaganza under the Bluewater Bridge. The event featured several keynote messages from government officials, Rotarians and Graham Cubitt, Indwells director of projects and development.



The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra was in attendance and spoke about Indwell and the importance of community support. Calandra indicated that "bringing the community with you" and generating support and excitement for affordable housing projects is "a game changer."

Graham Cubitt from Indwell spoke about their 50-year existence and work with wrap around services to help those most vulnerable and battling opioids and mental health crisis. The Foundation has a fund to support Affordable Housing; if you would like to know more about this fund, contact the office and set up a meeting with Mike (519 332-2588).

A Message from Mike Barron, Executive Director

In May, I attended a Project Mental Wellness (SCF Fund) event; "From the Barstool." This was an evening of men's mental health, the stories were true, and they were very impactful. Men need help; men need to be open to talk and share their feelings, men need to be more confident and be vulnerable.



I certainly was able to relate to the talks that were given at this event held by Project Mental Wellness. For some GenX men, our dads worked, up early and out the door, when work was done, they came home and did not connect with family; moms were the ones to look after kids, cook and take care of the kids in the family. I can certainly relate to this as this was the case in my house while growing up.

Now, this may not be the case in everyone's life. I am not writing this to scare anyone or make you feel sad or go off and try to make up with your dad. There is a real societal problem with men's mental health, men are increasing social isolation, suffer from boredom, and ignorance. I found this to be very profound and read this article by Scott Gallaway; called "Misdirects" "Many boys grow up with nearly no male role models. Absence of a male role model can result in loneliness, depression, suicide, and an increased susceptibility to radicalization and belief in conspiracies."¹

There are supports in our community, they include, Bluewater Health, professional counselling, EAP programs as well as the new provincial 9-8-8.

If you would like more information on Project Mental Wellness Fund or any other Fund at the Foundation, please call and set up a meeting (519) 332-2588.

1. reference Scott Gallaway; (July 19, 2024) Misdirects.



**Sarnia
Community
Foundation**

For Good, For Community, Forever

Find us at:

**109 Durand Street
Sarnia, ON N7T 5A1**

519-332-2588

office@sarniacommunityfoundation.ca

www.sarniacommunityfoundation.ca





Sarnia Community Foundation

Why use the Sarnia Community Foundation?

We help our community collaborate with partners and fund holders to create an equitable, sustainable, vibrant and resilient community. As a public Foundation, we are engaged and are responsible and accountable for the funds entrusted to the Foundation. We take that responsibility seriously and have several distinct advantages for charitable giving.

- **Flexibility:** Several charitable organizations or causes can be provided for with a single gift.
- **Agility:** Almost any charitable intent can be realized by setting up a fund, including the arts, culture, heritage, social services, health care, education, children & youth, environment, and recreation.
- **Permanence:** Unless otherwise specified by the donor, their Fund will remain invested in perpetuity with continuing income being directed to charities that are identified by the donor. Donor directions for disbursement of the income can be honoured even after the donor or their successors are no longer able to provide direction.
- **Recognition:** Fund holders receive recognition on the Foundation website and at designated events. The donor's fund is identified to the charities receiving grants from their fund.
- **Investment Expertise:** All funds are managed by one or more professional firms with proven long-term track records approved by the Foundation's board of directors. Such investments are carefully monitored and are housed within a balanced portfolio that is intended to generate income on an annual basis.
- **Tax Benefits:** Since the Foundation is a registered charity, donors receive a tax receipt for contributions. The Foundation is also able to accept gifts of stock, life insurance and other property and can, with proper valuation, provide tax receipts for these gifts.
- **Cost Effective:** With an overall administration fee of 3% or lower, the Foundation provides an attractive alternative to those considering the establishment of a private foundation. Our threshold levels for charitable fund establishment are generally lower than those of administered by banks and their philanthropic foundations. Using the Foundation as a vehicle for giving eliminates the operational costs of running a private foundation.
- **Community Benefits:** Through its active role in Sarnia and Lambton County community, as well as its annual charitable grants, the Foundation has proven to make a significant difference to the quality of community life.
- **Local Control:** The Foundation Board is comprised of residents of Lambton County. Our committee members are residents of Lambton County. The work of the Foundation is completed and supervised by people who live locally and know the community.

SOCIAL MEDIA The Foundation is working to improve the website and will continue to reach through the various social media platforms. Here is a snapshot of our Social Media platform:

Monthly Report

June 2024



Followers	Reach	Engagement
+12	3.3k	288



Followers	Reach	Engagement
+7	658	68



Followers	Reach	Engagement
+10	1,162	149



Do you have TIME TO GIVE?

*Join Our Board of Directors:
Make a Difference in Your Community!*

Are you passionate about making a positive impact in the Sarnia-Lambton community? Do you have expertise and enthusiasm to contribute to the Sarnia Community Foundation, dedicated to funding essential community causes and social impact? If so, we invite you to join our Board of Directors!

ABOUT US: The Sarnia Community Foundation is committed to empowering our local community through funding initiatives that address critical needs and create lasting change. From supporting local students through scholarships to providing grants to worthwhile local causes and organizations with the intent of fostering a vibrant, inclusive, livable Lambton County and improving the quality of life for all community members.

WHY JOIN OUR BOARD? As a board member, you will have the opportunity to:

SHAPE THE FUTURE: Play a pivotal role in guiding our organization's strategic direction and ensuring our mission is fulfilled.

MAKE AN IMPACT: Help allocate funds to meaningful projects that directly benefit the community.

NETWORK: Connect with like-minded individuals who are passionate about community development and philanthropy.

DEVELOP SKILLS: Enhance your leadership, governance, and nonprofit management skills through collaborative work.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR: We are seeking individuals with diverse backgrounds and skill sets, including but not limited to: Finance and Accounting, Education, Social Impact

BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES: Advocate for Sarnia Community Foundation within your networks and Sarnia-Lambton.

If you are interested in joining us please send an email to Mike Barron, the Executive Director at: ed@sarniacommunityfoundation.ca or call us at **519-332-2588**.

Join us in making a meaningful difference in Lambton County. Together, we can create positive change and build a brighter future!