



CFofM Newsletter

All the Dirt on Community Impact

This past November, the Foundation hosted a Community Knowledge Forum on the topic of community belonging in Mississauga. Drawing from the Mississauga's Vital Signs 2015 report, presenters and discussion at the forum explored the different connections Mississauga's people experience to family, neighbourhood, ethno-cultural heritage, organization, workplace, school, place, province, or country. One of the presenters, Stephanie Crocker, Executive Director at Ecosource, spoke about the powerful way environmental initiatives serve to strengthen community ties. In fact, 84% of participants in Ecosource's programs found greater attachment to community.

Last year, the Community Foundation awarded a number of grants for projects that foster community by bringing people together around a shared concern for the environment. Here are five initiatives where community is strengthened over dirt!

Riverwood Conservancy's project called Transformation received \$23,000 from the Foundation's Pendle Fund. Volunteers revitalize areas infected by invasive plants; Buckthorn, Dog Strangling Vine, Asian Honeysuckle, Garlic Mustard, and Manitoba Maple, providing a powerful outdoor experience for hundreds. Uniting corporations and schools, the project serves as a transformative experience for all involved.

Evergreen's Revitalize Mississauga, a targeted community environmental initiative that aims to restore and expand available habitat within highly degraded green spaces, was awarded \$20,000 from the Pendle Fund at the

Foundation. Over the course of 24 stewardship and planting events in Mississauga in 2015, a total of 356 wildflowers, and 2,955 trees and shrubs were planted. Residents were empowered to steward 6389 m² of green space and restore 13,000 m² of local habitat! A powerful side benefit to this work is the strengthened connections between urban residents, essentially a network of environmental stewards. Evergreen Staff Kim Sellers, addressing donors of the Community Foundation of Mississauga, described the impact of the work, "You have fostered community pride and empowered residents to care for local landscapes for years to come."

Ecosource received a grant for \$2,000 towards the work of the Peel Environmental Youth Alliance (PEYA), a network of over 1,000 environmentally-minded youth in the Region of Peel. This past fall, PEYA engaged 417 participants in events/networking meetings focused on increasing the capacity of youth to make environmental changes in their own schools and communities. For example, PEYA successfully hosted its 13th annual EcoBuzz Conference on October 28th, 2015 with over 250 participants. This conference focuses on educating and engaging youth to take initiative beyond the school with PEYA's main theme of "Sustainability in our Communities".

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Burning the Floor for Community

It was a fabulous night of glitz, glamour and fun on Friday, November 6, 2015 as the third annual Dancing with Mississauga Stars was held at the Mississauga Convention Centre. The sold-out event was bigger and better than ever, with over \$105,000 raised.

The participating Stars were Tim Beckett, Fire Chief of City of Mississauga; Lauren Bernardi, Principal at Bernardi Human Resource Law LLP; Dorothy Guerra, Owner of Re-birth Yoga Studio; Susanne Seelig-Mense, Owner/Entrepreneur of The Wine Ladies; and Cliff Silveira, Director of Operations at the Mississauga Convention Centre. Each of these remarkable community leaders gave generously of their time and talent and they made this event a smashing success.

In the months leading up to the event, each dancer was paired up with a professional dance instructor at Blue Heel Dance Studio and despite their busy schedules, completed up to 40 dance lessons and choreographed their dance performances. They also reached out to their personal and professional networks to help them reach their fundraising

goals, ultimately exceeding those goals.

The competition was close, but Cliff Silveira was declared Grand Champion based on the final numbers from fundraising income, judges scores and audience votes. Silveira took home the Mirror Ball Trophy for his memorable Salsa performance with his dance partner Myriam Nikiema.

As well as the fabulous Stars performances, the event also featured three professional dances. Emcees Francis D'Souza, of CityTV and Marivel Taruc, of CBC kept the evening on track and entertaining. Appreciation also goes out to judges, Jake Dheer, John Fraser and Corina Pirvuica.

The Dancing with Mississauga Stars gala has become one of Mississauga's most entertaining and successful fundraising events. If you are

looking for an exciting evening out while giving back to the community, be sure to attend the fourth annual Dancing with Mississauga Stars gala taking place on Friday, November 4, 2016! Highlights from the 2015 gala and information about the 2016 event can be found on the event website at: dancingwithmississaugastars.com.



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Over 13 workshops were offered to motivate students and inspire school/community action projects such as waste reduction campaigns, encouraging the use of sustainable transportation through creating a cycling culture and supporting natural ecosystems through the removal of invasive species.

Seva Food Bank received financial support for a number of initiatives,

including \$2,000 for their Peace Garden. This two acre garden provides year-round, youth development programming for youths ages 14 to 24, utilizing experiential education and training, urban agriculture, gardens and greenhouses. Youth leadership is cultivated through planting, growing, preparing, and selling food.

Finally, Friends of the Museums of Mississauga received \$10,000 from the Hazel McCallion Fund

for Arts, Culture and Heritage. The project, Neighbour to Neighbour, is both a workshop for sustainable gardening practices and an heirloom garden. The garden is a shared site of connectivity for community participants as well as a demonstration garden for youth, school groups, seniors and others in Mississauga and beyond.

The garden fosters community by sharing land with Mississauga residents who might not have access

to gardening plots due to space restrictions, income limitations or newcomer status. Neighbour to Neighbour operates in collaboration with Compass Food Bank, Armagh Women's and Children Shelter, and Friends of the Museums; the food grown in the garden went to the Mississauga Food Bank, Compass Food Bank and Interim Place.

An Eventful Year



Colleagues at the Advocis Luncheon 2015

On Thursday, December 10, 2015 Advocis Peel Halton hosted their 6th Annual Holiday Luncheon in support of the Community Foundation of Mississauga. The event featured Key Note Speaker, 2008 Olympic Champion and 2012 Olym-

pic Silver Medalist Brian Price. Brian shared his story on how he battled Leukemia, in turn helping him shape into an Olympic Rowing Champion.

The event attracted over 200 guests who got to engage in an auction and raise funds in support of the Community Foundation of Mississauga while indulging in a delicious luncheon provided by the Mississauga Convention Centre. It was a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season while networking with friends, clients, staff and colleagues.

The Community Foundation of Mississauga is so grateful for the ongoing support of Advocis Peel Halton and sends along sincere appreciation for being such special friends of the Foundation and the community!

While 2015 was a jam-packed year of launches and special events, 2016 is shaping up to be even better.

The Foundation already has some dates to share with you, so mark these in your calendar now:

“All for Community” Speakers Luncheon
Wednesday, May 4, 2016

“Fore Mississauga” Golf Tournament
Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Dancing with Mississauga Stars
Friday, November 4, 2016

As we get closer to each of these dates, the Foundation will have more details available on our web site. Check it out at CFofM.org.

Imagine. In 2011, the Right Honourable David Johnston asked us to “imagine our country as it could be... a smart and caring nation”. This was his request at the national conference of Community Foundations of Canada members. It was a call to action as we approach Canada’s 150th birthday.

Imagine that together, we can ensure every child has healthy food and a safe, secure home. Imagine that every young person can achieve their best through access to education and that our community can offer excellence in medical care and equipment for children close to home.

Imagine that in our community no child is left behind, excluded or bullied. Imagine the bright future our community could have if each child had the tools and opportunities they needed to reach their potential!

What does it really mean to be a visionary leader? It sometimes seems an overused descriptive yet, the winner of the 2015 Pendle Award, Gary Reamey, represents this concept at its best. Gary was one of the first donors to the Foundation. He established one of the Foundation’s first endowments, the Reamey Family Fund for the Women and Children of Interim Place with a significant donation in early 2007. While not that long ago, the Foundation was just beginning its growth. Yet, Gary could see even then how creating a fund with this young community foundation would serve two remarkable goals; it would create sustainable support for the essential work of Interim Place

and he would make a pace-setting gift that would inspire others to work with the Foundation. And he was right.

Gary’s visionary leadership did not stop there. He served as a member of the Foundation’s Board of Directors, gave generously to support the capacity of the Foundation, actively supported

the Foundation’s fundraising events and was a dedicated community champion. His support in those early years was pivotal to creating a strong, growing community foundation to serve Mississauga. For those reasons and so many more, the Foundation was honoured to present Gary Reamey (pictured centre below) with the 2015 Pendle Award.



At the Foundation, we have never shied away from dreaming big. We set a goal of building a million dollar fund that will invest in kids here in our community. We are asking you to join us and our remarkable donors who have already helped us reach the half way mark!

Our strategic investment in children and youth will result in demonstrable improvements in their resiliency with measurable benefits to our entire community. Investing with us in this endeavor takes vision and courage; it takes the hearts and minds of people who care deeply about community.

Call us today at 905-897-8880. You can be part of creating a lasting legacy and building a better future. Imagine that!

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Jeffery Rolke and Nancy Jenner-Rolke	Tone-A-Matic International Inc	Turkey Farmers of Ontario	Chris Hardy	Rob Mollenhauer	Danny Fagundes
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