



DONORS' ADVANTAGE

A semi-annual newsletter produced by the
Community Foundation of Ottawa for its donors

Community
Foundation of
Ottawa



Fondation
communautaire
d'Ottawa

For good...forever Le bien...toujours

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"If you can help a young person before they fall through the cracks or see themselves as incurable, you will make a difference."

Sylvia Cuhaci
Donor and former Board
Chair, Project Upstream

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Featured Donor – Sylvia Cuhaci

Long before establishing a fund with the Community Foundation of Ottawa, Sylvia Cuhaci had been supporting local charities, and had become personally involved in working to address mental health issues in our community.

An early volunteer and board member of Project Upstream, a grassroots organization providing mental health support services since 1985, Sylvia had also been experiencing the direct impact of mental illness on the life of her son Hayg and their family for a number of years. Despite their many efforts to help him overcome his struggle, Hayg died in 1990 at the age of 29.

"Instead of getting angry or focusing on the senselessness of our loss, we felt the need to act," says Sylvia. So she and her husband Edward established a memorial fund in Hayg's name at the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

"I knew the Foundation had been supporting the work of Project Upstream from its early

days," says Sylvia, "and I appreciated its commitment to helping this small organization build sustainable programs that could benefit people struggling with mental illness over the long term."



Photo by Mark Holleron
Courtesy of Ottawa at Home

"It was that ability to listen and understand the needs in the community that most impressed me, and convinced me that this was where we should start a fund of our own."

By establishing the Hayg Cuhaci Memorial Fund through a gift of shares, Sylvia knew she could support Project Upstream and the cause she cared about long into the future. "We really felt having an endowment fund like this one would allow us to help the community as needs

and organizations change and evolve over time."

Indeed, in 2007, Project Upstream established its own "Sylvia Cuhaci Legacy Fund" in honour of her long-time contribution to mental health services in Ottawa.

With a focus on meeting new and emerging needs, the fund has been used to support a "Youth Matters Campaign" to expand its services to young people between the ages of 16-21, and to assist youth and their families in making the transition from children's to adult mental health services.

"If you can help a young person before they fall through the cracks or see themselves as incurable, you will make a difference," says Sylvia, "and if there's a way to rescue even one young person from a tragic end, it's all worthwhile."

Thanks to the legacy of Sylvia and her family, programs like Project Upstream will continue to work to find solutions to the ravages of mental illness long into the future.

Recent Grants

FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE GRANTS MADE IN SPRING 2011:

Green Communities Canada is *Making it Cool to Walk to School* in Ottawa this year by collaborating with 10 local schools and community stakeholders on the School Travel Planning Project. With the support of a Community Foundation grant, ten written travel plans are being developed containing over 100 actions and initiatives to increase the number of children walking or cycling to school on a regular basis. Benefits of the program include empowering individual schools to begin tackling traffic problems in their districts and re-establishing a culture of walking and cycling among elementary and high-school students.

Jaku Konbit provides community support and services to Ottawa's black community through a variety of programming initiatives, including the *Black Star Tutoring* program for children and youth. This fall, the program is matching 20 minority students with university-educated tutors of similar cultural backgrounds to assist them with math, science, English and French studies. Students are also paired with professional mentors from their communities in order to help them develop relationships with positive role models.

The Gloucester Senior Adults' Centre has been bringing together high-school students, healthy seniors from the centre, and seniors with Alzheimer's Disease for over ten years through the *Intergenerational Alzheimer Project*. By providing an opportunity for these three generations to socialize and engage in such activities as bingo, crafts, music, and baking together, the project brings a sense of friendship and fulfillment to the senior participants, while giving students a rare insight into the experience of aging through interacting with both the healthy seniors and the Alzheimer's patients.



Founded in 2001, **Ottawa Riverkeeper** is a grassroots organization dedicated to protecting, promoting and improving the health and future of the Ottawa River.

With the help of a Community Foundation grant, the volunteer-driven organization recently launched the *Great River Project*, an ambitious and interactive journey to document the state of the Ottawa River and share its ecology and rich cultural heritage with a wide audience.

"It's about connecting the communities who live up and down the river," says Riverkeeper Meredith Brown, "This river is absolutely worth protecting and it needs us all to be paying attention to what's happening all along its lengths."

Designed to grow a large network of clean water stewards throughout the region, the goal of the Great River Project is to monitor, measure and report on the impacts of water pollution.



Grants in Action

"When a river is over 1,200 kilometers long and its 147,000 square kilometer basin contains over 1.6 million people, finding the largest sources of pollution and determining which are most harmful is a daunting task," says Meredith. "This project will help us, along with youth, volunteers and other concerned citizens, to learn and understand some of the causes of regional water pollution and what we can do to stop it."

To celebrate World River Day and launch the final leg of the *Great River Project* journey, Ottawa Riverkeeper invited the public to participate in a "Paddles Up" event in late September.



Travelling from Victoria Island to Kettle Island in a flotilla, canoeists and kayakers got together to explore and celebrate the Ottawa River as they paddled past Parliament Hill.

"Our beautiful river is home to a diverse range of species; is a source of drinking water for over two million people; supports local economies; is a world-class recreation destination and an important part of our culture and heritage," says Meredith Brown. "Yet

threats to the river are growing and the need for collective action is stronger than ever."



Tony and Judith Maxwell, Lorna Tener and Brian Toller

Community Foundation of Ottawa board members Judith Maxwell and Brian Toller, along with their spouses, threw their support behind the event, pitching in their paddlepower on one of the Riverkeeper's Voyageur canoes.

"The support of the Community Foundation and all our partners has been invaluable in helping us to launch a project of this magnitude," says Meredith. "In order for us to succeed, it's crucial for us to connect with young water stewards and new volunteers up and down the river."

With the help of its student volunteers, Ottawa Riverkeeper has been documenting the various stages of the *Great River Project* in an expedition blog, and will be releasing an Ottawa River Scorecard in early 2012.

To learn more, visit www.ottawariverkeeper.ca.

Community Foundation Update

Welcome to the autumn edition of Donors' Advantage. We hope you enjoyed this issue's cover feature about Sylvia Cuhaci and her family's memorial fund established to honour the life of their son Hayg. Their story is one of strength and selflessness in the process of overcoming every parent's worst nightmare.

In this issue, we're also pleased to share updates about a number of local projects the Foundation funded this past spring, including a feature story about the progressive work being done by Ottawa Riverkeeper.

We've also provided you with a few tips about donating RRSPs and RRIFs as we head into the final stretch of the giving season for the year. These types of gifts may be made during or after an individual's lifetime with advantageous tax results.

Also in this issue, we're pleased to profile one of the Foundation's long-time staff members, Janet Adams. While some of our donors may be familiar with Janet's friendly face and voice, you might be surprised to discover that her background includes working with autistic children and volunteering in overseas relief efforts. Have a look at the back page to learn more.

Speaking of staff, we're very happy to share the news that the Foundation has recently welcomed a new colleague. Christina McMahon joined us in August in the capacity of Administrative Assistant with the Grants and Community Initiatives team. Christina has a strong background in administration, most recently working with the Council of Canadian Academies, where she supported teams of experts in assessments, research and reporting that informs public policy development in Canada.

On a less happy note, we announce the departure of a stalwart of the Development and Donor Services team. Gillian Whyte has recently accepted a position at Carleton University as a Senior Development Officer of Personal and Planned Giving. While we all regret the loss to the Foundation on both a personal and professional level, we wish her all the best in this bright new opportunity back where her career began.

DONATION DEADLINES TO QUALIFY FOR A 2011 TAX RECEIPT:

Gifts by Cheque: Please ensure any cheques are mailed (and postmarked) no later than the last Canada Post mail pickup prior to December 31. Please make cheques payable to the Community Foundation of Ottawa, specifying the name of the fund in the memo field.

Gifts by Credit Card (via Internet): Make online gifts before midnight (EST) on December 31.

Gifts of Securities: When making gifts of publicly-listed securities, we recommend having your broker initiate the transfer no later than December 21* in order to ensure that final ownership of the securities is transferred to the Foundation by December 31. Please also complete and send us the Direction to Gift Shares by the same date.

*Please check with your broker regarding holiday hours.

Gifts of RRSPs/RRIFs

An individual can donate all or a portion of an RRSP or RRIF during their lifetime with no tax consequences. The Foundation can also be made a beneficiary of a retirement savings plan as part of a bequest, which can offset taxes incurred through the distribution of retirement funds after death.

How it Works

- You make a gift of an RRSP or RRIF directly to the Community Foundation of Ottawa and/or you make the Foundation a beneficiary of a retirement savings plan in your will
- Your gift can be placed into a fund in your name, in the name of your family or business, or in honour of any person or organization you choose.
- You are able to provide a future gift while preserving your current security.
- Your gift qualifies for a tax credit that can be used to offset taxes incurred through distribution of your retirement funds after death.
- We handle all the administrative details.
- Your gift can be placed into an endowment that is invested over time. Earnings from your fund are used to make grants addressing community needs. Your gift – and all future earnings from your gift – is a permanent source of community capital, helping to do good work forever.



The Community Foundation team bidding Gillian Whyte a fond farewell

FOR GOOD...FOREVER

Community Foundation of Ottawa

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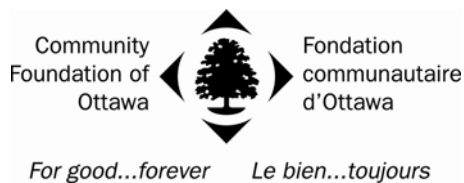
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Staff Member Profile

An integral member of the Development & Donor Services (DDS) team, Janet Adams has been with the Community Foundation for close to 10 years.

In her role as Associate, Janet works closely with prospects and donors, addressing questions and concerns and providing key information in a meticulous and timely fashion. She is considered the in-house expert on the drafting of fund agreements when prospective donors are preparing to establish funds with the Foundation.

Before joining the Foundation, Janet worked in the high tech sector and, before that, with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.



Janet Adams

Earlier in her career, she worked extensively with special needs and autistic children in Toronto and spent time studying behavior management techniques at the Option Centre in Massachusetts.

Janet has worked as a volunteer on a number of international projects, including

the World Outreach Fellowship Building Project in Belize and the provision of potable water and medical care in Ghana with the Canadian International Development Agency.

About her work with the Foundation, Janet says: "I love my job because it gives me such a positive window onto the city of Ottawa. Not only do I get the chance to meet and work with wonderful donors who want to give back to the community, but I also get to deal with the many great organizations doing amazing work—often with limited resources. It makes for a very satisfying mix!"