



HELPING CREATE A SMART & CARING STRATFORD – NOW AND FOREVER

December 13, 2016 – STRATFORD – After being inspired by our Governor General David Johnston’s challenge to join him in “imagining our country as it could be...a smart and caring nation, where all Canadians can succeed, contribute, and develop their talents to their fullest potential,” Doug MacDougald and Barbara Green are stepping up to help.

Earlier this month Doug and Barbara made a significant commitment to the *Stratford Smart & Caring Community Fund*. “To help respond to the ever-changing needs of our community, Barbara and I are contributing \$30,000 through a donation of shares and we have also left a substantial bequest to the Community Foundation in our wills,” shares Doug MacDougald. “The Community Foundation shared with us how effective tax planning rules are available to Canadians and can help people like us maximize our gifts to registered charities and in our estate planning.”

The *Stratford Smart & Caring Community Fund* was established by the [Stratford Perth Community Foundation](#) (SPCF) last year as a sustainable funding resource for the citizens of Stratford. It is one of six funds being built by the Community Foundation as part of their *Smart & Caring Initiative*. “We are creating a *Smart & Caring Community Fund* in each of our six municipalities,” says Tracy Van Kalsbeek, Executive Director of the SPCF. “Last year we kicked off funds in Stratford and North Perth and this past year we launched them in Perth South and St. Marys. Anyone can give to their local Community Fund and donations raised in each community, stay in that community to address its critical priorities, key projects and ongoing needs.” Plans are underway to introduce *Smart & Caring Community Funds* in West Perth and Perth East in 2017.

Doug and Barbara note, “We are very supportive of the creation of *Smart and Caring Community Funds* for all of our local municipalities because the Funds stay in the community and are unrestricted. Thus they can be used in areas of the greatest need to meet the vision of a better community, now and in the future.”

Earlier this year the Governor General published *The Idea of Canada - Letters to a Nation*. He asks in his letter to the citizens of Canada, “What will your gift be for our nation’s 150th birthday?” Doug’s response? “This is one of our gifts, because we believe in a strong local Community Foundation that can support our community, today, 10 years from now and forever.”

Donations can be made to the *Smart & Caring Community Fund* in your municipality by visiting www.spccf.ca and clicking on [Donate Now](#).

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About the [Stratford Perth Community Foundation](#)

The Stratford Perth Community Foundation (SPCF) is an organization for everyone and unique because donations – large or small – are never spent but are combined and invested. The earned income is used to make grants to local charities year after year to build a vibrant not-for-profit sector in Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County. To make all this work, we share our unique understanding of community needs and help mobilize and guide donors to specific community initiatives. For more information about SPCF please visit www.spccf.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StratfordPerthCommFdn>

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