

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW COMMUNITY FUND FOR ST. MARYS

The causes we care about, the time we invest, the people we bring together – they all shape our community

November 14, 2016 – St. Marys, ON – Yesterday the [Stratford Perth Community Foundation](#) (SPCF) officially kicked off the new *St. Marys Smart & Caring Community Fund*.

Hosted at the St. Marys Town Hall Auditorium, home of the [St. Marys Community Players](#), the SPCF announced its plans of raising \$100,000 to start building an endowment fund in St. Marys as a sustainable funding resource for local projects and initiatives. “Anyone can give to this Fund, \$10, \$100, \$10,000 and the donations raised in this community, stay in this community,” shared Tracy Van Kalsbeek, Executive Director.

Donations and pledges have already started to trickle in and it was announced that the *St. Marys Smart & Caring Community Fund* already has one donor who has stepped up to get involved. Local resident Chris McGregor, who is also a Board member at the SPCF, has started to grow a fund under the *St. Marys Smart & Caring Community Fund* to help respond to local needs.

On hand was Mayor Al Strathdee who talked about the importance of building an endowment fund specific to St. Marys. Other presenters included Matt Staffen, whose family established the [Brain & Mind Matters](#) (BAMM) Community Fund at the SPCF three years ago. He talked about the impact BAMM has made on funding important brain injury and mental health projects in St. Marys and beyond. Tara Porter, a volunteer at [Little Falls Public School](#), also came to chat about funding the school has received from the SPCF in the past including some recent funding for their “Leading Mentally Healthy Schools Team Project.”

There are many ways citizens can get involved in supporting the *St. Marys Smart & Caring Community Fund* including making a gift to the Fund as part of their year-end giving, collecting donations for special occasions, business challenges and making gifts in memory at a Funeral Home. Gifts can be made in many ways as well such as cheque, credit cards and transfers of shares.

Similar Community Funds were launched in Stratford and North Perth last year. At \$156,000, the *Stratford Smart & Caring Community Fund* has already reached over half of its \$250,000 goal and the *North Perth Smart & Caring Community Fund* has reached \$57,000 of its \$100,000 goal. The *Perth South Smart & Caring Community Fund* was launched in September and has raised \$18,200 of its \$50,000 goal. Perth East and West Perth will see their Community Funds launched in 2017.

About the Smart & Caring Communities Initiative

The *Smart & Caring Communities Initiative* is being created by the SPCF as a result of a call to action from the Governor General David Johnston. In 2011 the Governor General challenged Canadians to build a smart and caring nation. In response the SPCF is in the process of establishing unrestricted Community Funds in all six of our local geographies – Stratford, St. Marys, North Perth, Perth South, Perth East and West Perth. Each *Smart & Caring Community Fund* is a sustainable funding resource built by the people and for the people of each community to help build a more vibrant, not-for-profit sector and respond to the changing needs of their community.

To learn more or to make a donation to the *St. Marys Smart & Caring Community Fund* call 519-271-1503 or visit [spccf.ca](#) and click 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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Media Contact:

Tracy Van Kalsbeek, Executive Director, Stratford Perth Community Foundation
tracy@spccf.ca or 519-271-1503

Photos enclosed.