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## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW COMMUNITY FUND FOR PERTH SOUTH

**September 7, 2016** – St. Marys, ON – The [Stratford Perth Community Foundation](#) (SPCF) today announced the launch of the new *Perth South Smart & Caring Community Fund*.

Hosted at the [St. Marys Golf and Country Club](#), the SPCF announced its plans of raising \$50,000 to start building an endowment fund in Perth South 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 come in and today it was announced that the *Perth South Smart & Caring Community Fund* has already reached \$16,000. “We’re almost a third of the way to our \$50,000 goal – and that’s a true testament to the generosity of people living in this community,” added Ms. Van Kalsbeek.

On hand was Mayor Robert Wilhelm who talked about the importance of building a Fund specific to Perth South. “We know what a great community Perth South is because we live here – it is a smart and caring community,” noted Mayor Wilhelm. “We are pleased to help build a Fund to address our most important priorities and ongoing needs.” Local citizen Jean Aitcheson also spoke at the event about establishing her own nursing scholarship Fund at the SPCF and how she is giving back to help local students.

Past Perth South Reeve and County Warden Ron McKay, who is also an SPCF Board Member, announced his own contribution and provided ideas on how local citizens could support the new *Perth South Smart & Caring Community Fund*. “Citizens can include the Fund in their year-end giving or collect donations for special occasions,” said Mr. McKay. “They can make gifts in memory at a Funeral Home – there are many reasons to give and keep that giving local.”

Other contributions to the Fund announced were from the Wilhelm family, Optimist Club of Downie and [South Easthope Mutual Insurance Company](#).

Similar Community Funds were launched in Stratford and North Perth last year. At \$147,000, 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 *St. Marys Smart & Caring Community Fund* will be kicked off later this fall and 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 *Perth South 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](#)

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Photos enclosed.