



## Message from the President & CEO

The role of Hamilton Community Foundation (HCF) is increasingly going beyond grantmaking and fund development. Along with other community foundations in Canada, we're expanding our role as community catalyst.

For HCF, the term describes a range of activities and roles that we carry out to support positive changes in our community. We bring people together, help to build coalitions and organize community activities.

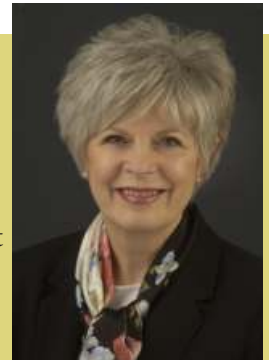
In our great city of Hamilton, this often has the effect of simply putting a match to a spark! Inevitably, finding solutions to our city's challenges comes from local leaders and residents, with HCF taking a supporting role as an objective player. Past efforts include bringing together organizations and local leaders on issues relating to bullying, aboriginal youth, diversity and arts stabilization. More recently, HCF has worked with groups and individuals

concerned about a voice for seniors, after-school programs for children, recreation opportunities for immigrant children and youth, and job training for new Canadians.

This issue of *Legacy* introduces some very important community catalyst work that is taking place in conjunction with our *Tackling Poverty Together* initiative. With the City of Hamilton, HCF is co-convening a Poverty Roundtable of civic leaders, where a collaborative approach to reducing and preventing poverty is being formed.

The community will hear much more about this project over the next few months as we develop and begin implementation of a plan to reduce the city's poverty rate. We welcome your comments and questions about this exciting initiative.

Carolyn A. Milne, President & CEO



## A City Comes Together: Poverty Roundtable Formed

Hamilton Community Foundation and the City of Hamilton have joined forces in leading a community-wide response to Hamilton's poverty problem.

The Poverty Roundtable brings together local leaders from boards, agencies, businesses, media and municipal government to work with community members and organizations to develop a plan to reduce the city's poverty rate, currently tied with Toronto's as the highest in Ontario. Carolyn Milne, President & CEO of HCF, and Joe-Anne Priel, General Manager, Public Health and Community Services, are co-convenors of the roundtable.

Funding to support the planning phase has been provided by Hamilton Community Foundation and the City of Hamilton, along with three donations from private sector members of the roundtable: Dofasco, Pictorvision and Turkstra Lumber.



HCF's *Tackling Poverty Together* grant to Threshold School of Building provides youth with training in home construction and renovation. They learn from expert tradespeople and work to renovate housing for families in need.

"No one group can tackle this problem alone," says Mark Chamberlain, chair of both the HCF board and the roundtable. "The strength of the roundtable lies in its multi-sector approach, bringing the best thinking of community services groups, business, government, health and education to focus on

reducing poverty. We're saying, what can we do together? We all have a responsibility, and the capability, to do something."

The roundtable is in the plan development phase now – a stage that involves meeting with a wide number of community groups to build interest in the initiative and gain a better understanding of how poverty affects the city. "We're going to be solution-oriented, but we have to put in the thinking

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# Poverty Facts and Figures

**Almost 20% of Hamiltonians live below the poverty line – enough people to fill Copps Coliseum five times**

**One in four children under 12 in Hamilton lives in poverty**

**More than 50% of recent immigrants live in poverty, as do 29% of seniors**

**From 1990-2000, the wealthiest 40% of Hamiltonians saw an increase in their average incomes, while the poorest 60% saw an overall decrease in income**

## Poverty Roundtable Members

Rick Beauchamp, Ministry of Community and Social Services

Marcel Castura, Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board

Mark Chamberlain, HCF Board of Directors

Tom Cooper, McQuesten Legal & Community Services

Renate Davidson, HCF Board of Directors

John Dolbec, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

Bill Gair, Dofasco

Dr. Lindsey George, St. Joseph's Healthcare

Peter Hutton, Hamilton Social Justice Coalition

Don Jaffray, Social Planning and Research Council

Bob Jones, RO Jones Consulting

Wayne Marston, Hamilton & District Labour Council

Brian McHattie, Ward One Councillor, City of Hamilton

Carolyn Milne, Hamilton Community Foundation

Brian Mullan, Hamilton Police Service

Chris Phillips, Minister Tony Valeri's Office

Joe-Anne Priel, City of Hamilton

Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, City of Hamilton

Ines Rios, St. Joseph Immigrant Women's Centre

Dana Robbins, The Hamilton Spectator

Dr. Leila Ryan, McMaster University

Darrel Skidmore, United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton

Dr. Chris Spence, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

Carl Turkstra, Turkstra Lumber

Steve Varey, Scotiabank

Dr. Gary Warner, McMaster University

Liz Weaver, YWCA

## A City Comes Together: Poverty Roundtable Formed – *continued from page 1*

and groundwork up front to make sure the solutions are appropriate and effective," Mark says. "Without this up front work, we'd run the risk of losing focus."

The plan is expected to be completed by late January 2006. It will outline specific collaborative actions to reduce poverty, establish the long-term leadership and

organizational structure necessary to implement the plan and identify how the implementation will be funded. "Our plan will be focused on systemically tackling the root causes of poverty as opposed to finding quick fixes," Mark says.

Mayor Larry Di Ianni applauds the formation of the roundtable, saying it's a responsible approach to the city's most pressing problem. "What we need is a comprehensive look at the resources we have, and how to deploy them to actually reduce the level of poverty in our city. It's going to be a multi-year and multi-sector approach."



Mayor Larry Di Ianni

## Spectator to Focus on Poverty

Poverty will be The Hamilton Spectator's "issue of choice" over the next three years, marking the first time in the newspaper's history that it has identified a public policy focus.

Editor-in-chief Dana Robbins, an HCF Board and Poverty Roundtable member, announced in late October that poverty will be a priority area for The Spectator's coverage and commentary.

"We want to put poverty on the public agenda. One of the problems is, because the poverty problem is so large, we've convinced ourselves that it's too large to solve. It's large, but it's manageable, and we'll be working to show people that. You eliminate poverty one family at a time."

Dana says the establishment of the roundtable was "a significant factor in The Spectator's decision to embrace poverty in such a dramatic way," adding, "There really is a sense that a window of opportunity has opened in our community, that we have been presented with a unique opportunity to address a pressing social issue, and that's largely a function of the work of the roundtable."

## Bob and Helen Lofthouse

As busy as Bob and Helen Lofthouse were with their careers, family and myriad community activities, they never lost sight of the needs of their community.

Bob and Helen met while serving in the medical branch of Canada's naval service during World War II. They made Hamilton their home in the 1950s and raised four daughters here.

Bob was an orthopedic surgeon at the Hamilton General Hospital for 37 years, and the head of Orthopedics for 22 years. He was the first surgeon in Hamilton to focus exclusively on orthopedic surgery as a specialty, and served as president of the Canadian Orthopedic Association. During the polio outbreak of the 1950s, he established a free clinic for children crippled by polio and gave hundreds of hours of his own time.

In 1996, Bob and Helen purchased a life insurance policy for HCF in order to leave a legacy to their adopted 'hometown.' More than just donors, they were connected to the Foundation through Bob's involvement on the Board of Directors from 1993 to 1998. He also helped to create the Community Health, Education and Research Fund committed to fostering innovative research and education in community health. The Lofthouses' insurance policy gift will go to HCF's Administration Endowment Fund, which helps support the operations of the Foundation.

Today, both Helen and Bob are in their late 80s and they look back with satisfaction at the decision they made to support their community for generations to come. Helen says simply, "The Community Foundation is a great cause."

### ■ **Donation Tip: Life insurance gift can meet family and donation goals**

If you'd like to make a gift to Hamilton Community Foundation from your estate, but also want to provide for your heirs, a life insurance policy can help you accomplish both goals.

Your estate can be left to your family, and the life insurance policy to the Foundation, payable on the death of the last surviving spouse. "It's a win-win situation for many donors who want to leave major bequests both to their children and to a charity," says Pam Lakin, Vice-President, Development at HCF.

There are two ways to donate a life insurance policy. The Foundation can be made the owner and the beneficiary, which provides immediate tax benefits during your lifetime. But if it's more advantageous for your estate to receive the tax benefit, then the Foundation is identified as a beneficiary only.

"The method selected is up to the donor, and based on his or her circumstances," Pam says.

For more information about leaving a legacy for the community using life insurance, please contact Pam Lakin at 905-523-5600.

Donors  
Bob and Helen  
Lofthouse



HCF  
News

Being  
Neighbourly

Nineteen projects ranging from neighbourhood beautification to a multicultural sewing club were recognized at the third annual Neighbourhood Celebration in late September.

The event celebrated citizen groups working to improve life in the Beasley, Landsdale, McQuesten East and McQuesten West neighbourhoods. Neighbourhood improvement projects are initiated by the residents themselves, with planning advice and grants provided by Hamilton Community Foundation through the *Growing Roots...Strengthening Neighbourhoods* program.

More than \$15,502 in grants were provided in 2004/2005. The celebration took place at Roxborough Park School in east Hamilton. For a complete list of projects funded by *Growing Roots...Strengthening Neighbourhoods* grants, please visit [www.hcf.on.ca](http://www.hcf.on.ca).

# Another Year of Camp for Kids

In the summer of 2005, more than 1,000 children attended 22 local camps thanks to The Hamilton Spectator Summer Camp Fund, established in 1984 with HCF. Approximately \$115,000 is donated annually from the community to support summer camp attendance for children who might otherwise never have a camping experience due to low income, language barriers, or health problems.



**Photo:** A summer camp held at the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA helps children to learn empathy for, and socialize with animals. The Hamilton Spectator Summer Camp Fund at HCF subsidized 22 children to attend this camp.

## HCF welcomes new directors

**Dr. Chris Spence** is the director of Education at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. The former running back for the B.C. Lions worked as a teacher, principal and school superintendent at Toronto District School Board before coming to Hamilton in 2004.

**Sharon Lax** is president of Dancole Investments Ltd. Born and raised in Hamilton, she has worked as a teacher and assistant principal and is an active community volunteer. From 1999 to 2000, she co-chaired the Our Millennium project, representing Volunteer Hamilton.

*Welcoming new Advisory Committee members:* • Russ Weil • Evelyn Myrie • Karyn Callaghan • Cecelia Carter-Smith

*Thanking outgoing Board members:* • Ollie Thomson • Dr. Ray Johnson

*Thanking outgoing Advisory Committee members:*

• Mac Carson • Monica Bennett  
• Dr. Peter Sutherland • Judi Partridge  
• Tracey Newton • Jude Johnson

## Cancer Researcher Grateful for Bursary

When Chris Counter learned last May that he'd been promoted to associate professor at Duke University, he sat down to write a letter of thanks – to Hamilton Community Foundation. The cancer researcher had been the recipient of a Chaney Ensign Bursary and he wanted the Foundation to know what a difference it made in his life.

"Almost 20 years ago, I found myself on my own, trying to get through high school and into university," Dr. Counter wrote. "My guidance counselor at high school, who was aware of my situation, suggested that I apply to what was then the Hamilton Foundation for financial assistance. Fortunately, I received a Chaney Ensign Bursary, which helped pave the road to a long career in cancer research.

"Education is one of the few paths available to the poor to better themselves, and the support to a disadvantaged kid like myself leveled the playing field and gave me the chance to better my situation and get an education. I can never thank Hamilton Community Foundation enough, and will never forget the chance you gave me to pursue my dreams."

Dr. Counter has now become an HCF donor. If you would like to support youth through educational bursaries, please contact the Foundation at 905-523-5600.

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COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**

For Hamilton, For Ever

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