



LEGACY

Fall 2007
Newsletter

Message

from the President & CEO

Recently our Board and staff have been reviewing our strategic direction – who we are, what we do and how we do it. One of the areas we are exploring is “social innovation,” – or, “new ideas that work in meeting social goals.”

The concept is simple, yet touches everything we do. Social innovation means risk taking, but *how* we do it means those risks will be calculated. They will be guided by consensus on goals, rigorous research and evaluation to ensure that the ideas are workable and truly meet their intended social goals.

Social innovation also dictates a continuous flow of ideas. The Foundation is a leader here – we recently participated in an international panel to help foundations learn from “visionary colleagues” – but we haven’t achieved this on our own. We need to continue to facilitate the great ideas of our many partners.

Reading *Legacy*, you will be reminded of the power of one person and an idea. Dr. Bob Kemp's idea brought Hamilton a world-class hospice. Ray Lowes, who was profiled in the last issue of *Legacy*, recently passed away. Ray was a great friend of the Foundation. His idea to preserve the precious habitats of the Niagara Escarpment resulted in creating the Bruce Trail.

So I challenge you: What ideas do you have for making Hamilton a model community and the best place to raise a child? How can the Foundation support and share those ideas through our unique role as a catalyst and convenor?

We look forward to keeping you informed about social innovation and progress on our strategic direction. In the meantime, we want to hear from you – let's keep our idea exchange going.

Carolyn Milne

Donor News



Local children helped celebrate the donation.

HCF Brings Donor and Neighbourhood Together

A local couple has paired their passion for early learning and childhood development with the needs of Hamilton's poorest neighbourhood, and Hamilton Community Foundation was the matchmaker.

The couple was troubled by the May 2006 federal budget, which cancelled the planned National Child Care Program. Wanting to do something to counteract the loss of more than 1,400 planned child care spaces in Hamilton, they were referred to Hamilton Community Foundation.

“It was the perfect example of the Foundation's reputation for making a donor's intent into a reality with impact,” says Carolyn Milne, President & CEO. “Through our work in challenged neighbourhoods, we knew that Beasley in Hamilton's north end had a real gap in early learning programs. We conducted research and a best practice review which led to the donor's selection of an innovative program for parents and pre-school children.”

– continued on page 4

Hospice Opening Fulfillment of a **Dream**

“It's just ... the tops,” says Dr. Bob Kemp, almost at a loss for words to describe his feelings about the July opening of the Dr. Bob Kemp Centre for Hospice Palliative Care. The 10-bed facility on Stone Church Road East provides residential care in a home-like environment for people who are terminally ill.

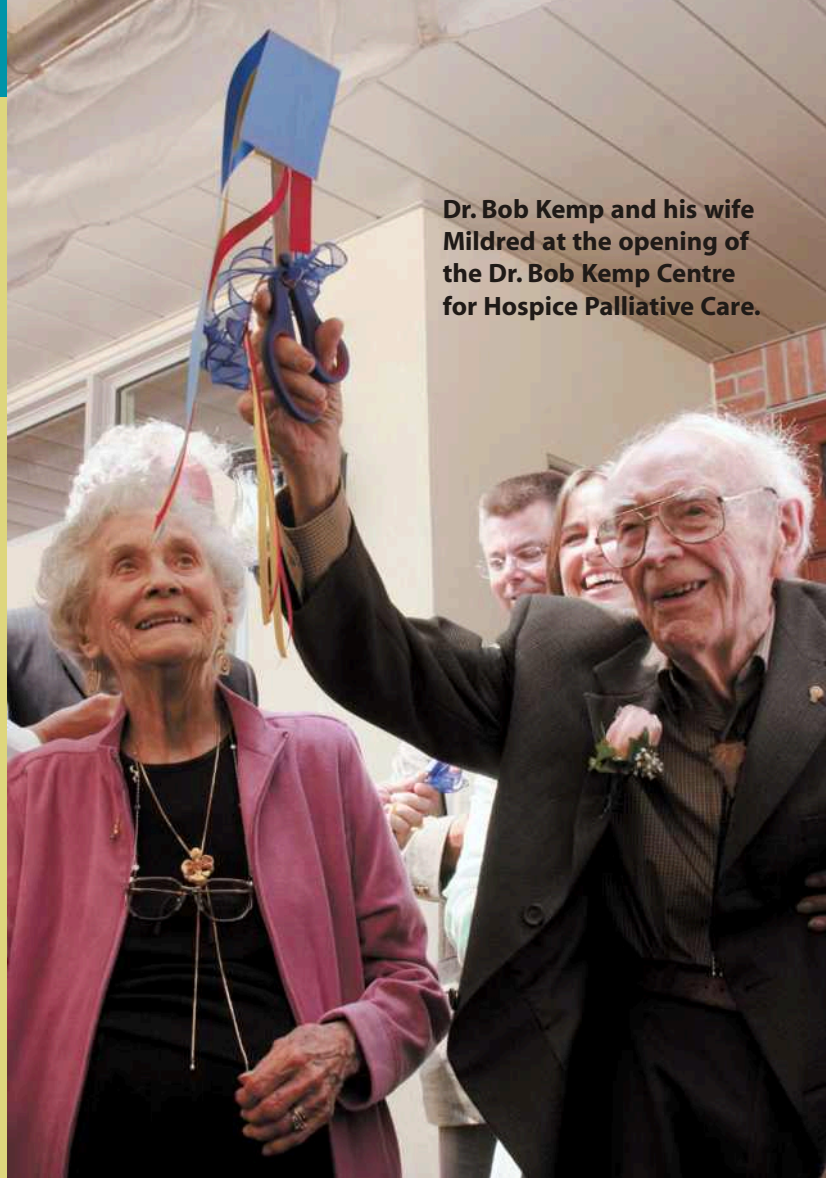
For “Dr. Bob” and his lifelong partner, Mildred, it's the culmination of a dream that they worked tirelessly toward, and sometimes wondered if it would ever be fulfilled.

“It was hard slugging at first,” says Dr. Bob. “Not many people knew what hospices were when we started with our group of 12. But as we taught people more about hospices – especially that they look after anyone regardless of finances – the resources started to come.

“When people understand,” he says, “it's a giveaway.”

Individuals, businesses, service groups, volunteers, media and government all got on board over time. It was this snowballing of community support and cooperation that kept Bob and Mildred going through 12 years from concept to ribbon cutting. Mildred also credits Hamilton Community Foundation with providing an important due diligence role on grants from their funds to the effort. “It gives people a lot of comfort that their wishes are being met in ways that are sound and feasible,” she says.

One legacy from “Bob's house” is that the groundwork for hospices in Hamilton has been laid. Future



Dr. Bob Kemp and his wife Mildred at the opening of the Dr. Bob Kemp Centre for Hospice Palliative Care.

facilities can be built within that umbrella. It's especially satisfying for Dr. Bob, ever the advocate, who says enthusiastically – “It's on to the next – especially if someone were to donate the land.”

Donation Tip: *Be an Informed Donor*

Your charity dollars are an investment. It's important to be just as cautious with charitable giving decisions as you are about any other financial decision. Consider:

- 1 Can the charity communicate who they are and what they do? If not, it will probably struggle in delivering results.
- 2 Can the charity define its goals? If not, how can it measure success?
- 3 Can the charity tell you the progress it has made (or is making) toward its goals? Being “concerned” isn't enough – what has been done to solve the problem?
- 4 Can you trust the charity? Are the financial results available? What is the policy on “donor rights?” Is your privacy protected?

HCF can assist donors with the administration and due diligence required for charitable giving. To learn more about setting up a fund at HCF to support your favourite charities, please call Pam Lakin, Vice-President, Development, in confidence, at 905-523-5600, ext. 223.

Welcome New Board Members

HCF chair **Rev. Dr. Alan McPherson** and his board colleagues welcome four new members:

Dr. Lindsey George is head of the Mental Health Rehabilitation Service at St. Joseph's Healthcare in Hamilton, Clinical Director of the Brant Assertive Community Treatment Team, and a consulting psychiatrist for the HOMES Program of the Good Shepherd Centres.

Paul Gibel, CA, is a partner with MacGillivray Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors, where he works primarily with owner-managed businesses and not-for-profit organizations.

Eric Girt is Deputy Chief of Hamilton Police Service and a lifelong Hamilton resident. A McMaster graduate with a BA in English and Anthropology, Eric also completed the Rotman School of Management's police leadership program.

Sarah Murphy, CIM, is an Associate Portfolio Manager and Investment Advisor at CIBC Wood Gundy in downtown Hamilton.

Teens **Coby Jackson** and **Megan Meredith**, of Westdale High School, have been appointed co-chairs of HCF's Youth Advisory Council (YAC). Congratulations!

Thank You Outgoing Board Members

Three members retired from the Board of Directors in June 2007, and we thank them for their leadership and support of the Foundation over so many years.

George Nakamura, CA, served on the board for five years, bringing his financial and business expertise as a chartered accountant and partner at Dingfeld Nakamura. He served as Chair of the Finance/Investment Committee, and Treasurer.

Dr. Leila Ryan, an assistant professor at McMaster University, was appointed to the board in 1999. She helped to shape several of HCF's key leadership initiatives such as the neighbourhood and poverty initiatives and is a past Chair of the board.

Renate Davidson, a retired Human Resources executive at Stelco, joined the HCF board in 2000. She served as Chair of the board during HCF's 50th anniversary year and served as past Chair for two years. Renate played a key role in the development of HCF's focus on poverty and the environment.



George Nakamura



Dr. Leila Ryan



Renate Davidson



Memorial Scholarship Captures Amanda's Spirit

Amanda Cowan had a bulletin board on her bedroom wall with one of her favourite philosophies posted on it: "Whatever you want to do, do it NOW.

There are only so many tomorrows."

With a warm, generous and spirited personality that effortlessly drew friends, colleagues and students to her, the young teacher put her philosophy into action every day, especially after she was diagnosed with terminal cancer in November 2006 at the age of 28.

"When she woke up every morning she looked at that bulletin board," says Amanda's mother, Pam. "She applied it to everything in her life."

Amanda passed away in July 2007. Her family decided to honour her memory with a memorial scholarship fund at Hamilton Community Foundation: "It seemed to be a good way to capture her spirit," Pam says.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a student in teachers' college at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, from which Amanda received her Bachelor of Education. "It will be someone who has a financial need and shows academic promise," her mother explains.

"We hope it will be someone who portrays the type of personality that Amanda was – someone who puts their whole heart into it. We're sure she would approve of this."

The leadership of Hamilton Community Foundation and particularly its President & CEO, **Carolyn Milne**, were cited at a McMaster University Convocation, where Carolyn received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

The June 7, 2007 event, led by McMaster's President and Vice-Chancellor Peter George, praised the Foundation's strategic approach to grantmaking and its focus on the needs of our community's most vulnerable populations and most pressing issues.

"The Foundation and Mrs. Milne personally have become leaders in promoting a comprehensive approach to building a healthy community by, to name but one example, partnering with the city of Hamilton to establish the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction," Dr. George noted.

Grace Diffey, APR, has joined Hamilton Community Foundation as Vice-President, Community Relations. In this newly-created role, Grace will promote HCF as a leading voice of community building in Hamilton, and head up the development of a broad community relations strategy. An award-winning, accredited public relations practitioner, Grace has 25 years of corporate communications and consulting experience.



Grace Diffey

HCF Brings Donor and Neighbourhood Together – *continued from page 1*

Already neighbourhood residents are responding positively to new programs offered at Beasley Community Centre – programs made possible by the couple's anonymous \$1-million donation to HCF in May 2007.

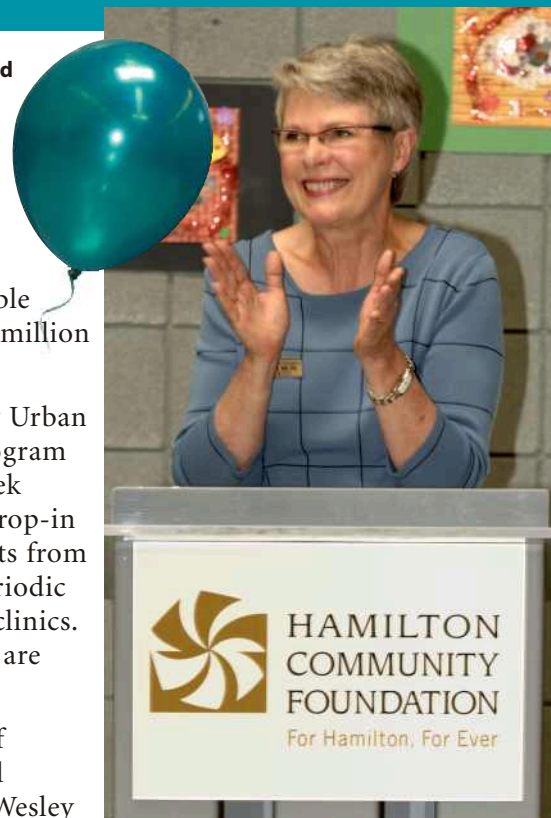
Under the leadership of Wesley Urban Ministries, their early years program is now open four days each week offering interactive play on a drop-in basis, a nutrition program, visits from the public health nurse and periodic Child Development Screening clinics. Parent education and supports are also provided.

"This is an amazing example of community building," says Paul Johnson, executive director at Wesley Urban Ministries. "It has caught on faster than other programs I've seen and we're just starting. We have 48 families registered, equating to 155 people."

Research by Nobel prize-winning economist James Heckman shows the return to society (for example, through lower social service costs, increased spending and government revenue, etc.) on early child development is at least eight to one for every dollar invested ... higher than for education and training at any other time of life.

"Beasley is a neighbourhood where many residents have a real desire to improve things," says Paul. "This investment is critical to help break the cycle of poverty and give our city's children a more equal playing field."

"These donors are people who feel deeply about giving children the best possible start in life, and they chose to share their good fortune to do just that," says Carolyn. "There's no question it's going to make a difference in people's lives."



Carolyn Milne enthusiastically announces the Beasley neighbourhood donation at a June event.



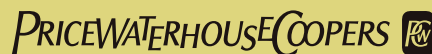
120 King Street West, Suite 700
Hamilton, ON L8P 4V2
T 905-523-5600 • F 905-523-0741
W www.hcf.on.ca
E information@hcf.on.ca

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