



SUNSET
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

FOR GOOD. FOREVER.



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Annual Business Report 2025

Annual Meeting ~ May 20, 2026

Sunset Community Foundation
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Charitable Registration #86536 8526RR0001

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Our Vision

VIBRANT, JUST, AND SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES WHERE EVERYONE
BELONGS.

Our Mission

HELPING DONORS AND
ORGANIZATIONS MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES,
NOW AND FOREVER.

A Proud Member of



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA**

“Community Foundations play a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life in our communities both now and for future generations. Through their efforts in addressing pressing issues, fostering philanthropy, and supporting local initiatives, they create lasting positive impacts that endure for years to come.”

THANK YOU

Your generosity and support have been instrumental in advancing the work of our foundation.

We have made every effort to recognize all donors and sponsors from January to December 2025; however, if anyone has been unintentionally overlooked, please accept our sincere apologies.

Your support means so much to us.



Donor Recognition

Eastern Star #222	Bob Illman
Jean & Kenneth Aicheson	Dr. Jim & Beth Jean
Margaret Alfieri	Nancy Joyal
Abby Armstrong	Nancy & John Kennes
Michael & Kelly Arts	Brenda & Shawn King
Dave & Anne Bannister	Jo-Anne & Andy Klapak
Jared & Kelly Bourne	Jack Kraft
Gordon Britton	Susan Kraftcheck
Catherine Campbell	Jacqueline Krech
Ross Caslick	James Lynn
Paul Ciufo	Flora MacKeller
Justine Clarke	Joanne Maguire
Maureen Cole	Arnold & Ila Mathers
Landa Coletta	Charlene Masschelein
Community Foundations of Canada	Denise & Merrick McCall
Don de Jong	Sarah Morgan Koonce
Suzanne de Jong	Janelle Mudge
Dianne De Wys	Janice & Mike Patriquin
Deirdre & Gregg Denholm	Tom Prout
Jen Denys	Lisa Reaume
Jayden DesJardine	Barb & Larry Robinson
Stephen Donaldson	Lynda & Brian Ruston
Barb Down	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 498
Bob Down	Brian & Lynda Saunders
Ane Duffield	Debbie & Bob Schram
George Finch	Jacqueline Southcott
Steven Flear &	Tom Stewart
Mathilda Martins-Flear	Tim Sweet
Laura Goulding	BJ & Meaghan Theophilopoulos
Brian & Irene Hall	Helen Turner
Daphne Hemphill	Martin & Ellen VanderLoo
Hessenland Recreation Centre	Marissa Vaughan
Scott & Kate Holman	Kevin Vincent
Vickie Hutchinson	Charles Visscher
	Leanne Wiseman

Letter from the Board Chair

It is with deep gratitude that I reflect on another year of purposeful action and meaningful progress for the Sunset Community Foundation.

This year, we transitioned from planning into powerful execution of our operational structure. We undertook a governance overhaul and implemented clear processes for donor agreements and granting. This foundational work ensures we remain accountable and resilient as we continue to grow across Huron County.

Our geographic expansion yielded tangible results, starting with the Bayfield Area Community Fund Group. The establishment of the Brigadier Morgan and Edith Smith Fund in July 2025 is already enabling the Bayfield Advisory Committee to launch its inaugural grant in 2026. Following this model, we began active development in Goderich and Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, hosting discovery sessions and presenting to the ACW Council to lay the groundwork for a new Advisory Committee.

We also successfully launched a new initiative in South Huron, the 500 Club, which empowers community members to invest \$500 toward a shared fund that will support local charities in perpetuity.

To our donors, volunteers, and partners - Thank You. Your trust fuels our mission to ensure everyone has a place and a voice.

With gratitude,



Charlene Masschelein
Chair, Board of Directors
Sunset Community Foundation

Board of Directors 2025

Truly inspiring to see volunteers whose passion and dedication shine through in every step they take to strengthen our community.

Board Chair

Charlene Masschelein

Vice Chair

Abby Armstrong

Treasurer & Finance Chair

Paul Shwetz

Governance Chair

Stephanie Allen

Greater Grand Bend Advisory Chair

Peter Janzen

Greater Grand Bend Advisory Advocate

Jim Jean

South Huron Advisory Chair

Laura Goulding

Bayfield Advisory Advocate

Abby Armstrong

Goderich & ACW Advisory Advocate

Mike Niglas

Huron Entrepreneur Advisory

Jim Lynn

Finance, Governance & GGBA Advisory

Bob Illman

Executive Director

Lisa Reaume

Fund Recognition

GREATER GRAND BEND COMMUNITY FUNDS

Founding PUC Community Fund
Community Contributions Fund
Arts Family Fund
Charlotte Edwards Robinson Memorial Fund For the Arts
Environment Legacy Fund
Grand Men Fund
Grand Women Fund
Hay Communications Fund
Jean Family Fund
Krech Family Fund
M. J. Muma Endowment Fund
Relouw Fund
Sabourin Family Endowment Fund
Stephanie and Ted Donaldson Family Fund
Winters Family Fund

SOUTH HURON COMMUNITY FUNDS

South Huron Community Fund
South Huron Vitality Fund
South Huron 500 Club Fund
Bob Down Family Fund
Bourne Family Fund
Brian J. Clarke Family Fund
Cole Family Fund
Jack Riddell Family Fund
Lavender Fund
Mathers Family Fund
Prout Family Fund
Theophilopoulos Family Fund

BAYFIELD COMMUNITY FUNDS

Bayfield Benevolent Fund
Margaret "Maggie" Visscher Nursing Bursary Fund
Brigadier Morgan and Edith Smith Fund

HURON ENTREPRENEUR FUND (HEF)

SUNSET GENERAL FUND

Margaret "Maggie" Visscher Nursing Bursary Fund

Events 2025

Grand Women



Grand Men



Red Cup Games



Advisory Committees 2025

Greater Grand Bend Advisory Committee

Peter Janzen, Chair
Jim Jean, Advocate to the Board
Bob Illman, Finance, Governance, Central Grants
Cheryl Dinnin, Grand Women Chair
Jan Williams, Grand Women Events
Bruce Hough, Grand Men Chair
Garrett Pedlar, Grand Men Events
Dwayne Mathers, Grand Men Events
Brenda Murphy, Red Cup Games
George Shaw, Founding PUC

South Huron Advisory Committee

Laura Goulding, Chair & Advocate to the Board
Tom Prout, Immediate Past Chair
Mary Peterson, Central Grants
Barb Down
Joanne Bowen
Dave Frayne
Leanne Wiseman

Huron Entrepreneur Advisory

Jim Lynn, Advocate to the Board
Martin VanderLoo
John Marshall
Bryan Vincent
Tina Bax
Rhonda Payne

Bayfield & Bluewater Advisory

Robert Tremain, Chair
Abby Armstrong, Advocate to the Board
Nancy Lowrey

Goderich & ACW Advisory

Mike Niglas, Advocate to the Board

About Us

The original Grand Bend Community Foundation was established in 2001 with \$1.5 million in proceeds from the sale of Grand Bend's Public Utilities Commission.

Sunset Community Foundation's Total Endowment is \$4,161,455.

The **Greater Grand Bend Community Funds** has grown into an endowment of **\$3,534,319.**

In 2020, the Municipality of South Huron invested in the Foundation to create the Vitality Fund within the **South Huron Community Funds** which has grown to **\$462,211.**

Acknowledging that many Huron County charities serve residents of Lambton Shores, the Board of Directors decided to expand and rebrand in February 2021. All of Huron County and Lambton Shores are served now under the name Sunset Community Foundation.

In March 2021, the **Huron Entrepreneur Fund** was founded by a group of business leaders to support charitable activities in Huron County that foster independent businesses in the region. The HEF has grown to **\$93,393.**

The **Bayfield Community Funds** were formed in 2024 and has an exciting growth to **\$61,547.**

The **Sunset General Funds** holds **\$9,985.**

Developing Community Advisory Committees within in ACW & Goderich, Bluewater, Huron East, and North Middlesex is a current strategic priority.

See website for more info: sunsetcommunityfoundation.ca

South Huron Grant Awards



Grand Bend Grant Awards



Financial Statement

Donations Received: \$334,503
 Grants to Community Projects: \$224,000
 Growth of Foundation Funds: \$286,311



OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

*Building strong communities.
 Today and for generations to come.*



SCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Responsible for Investing
- Sets Standards/Guidelines
- Ensures compliance
- Creates Relationship Development (RD) tools and documents/stories
- Develops Granting protocols
- Develops Relationships with other Foundations
- Keeps overhead less than 2%



GRAND BEND ADVISORY

- Local Relationships & Fund Development
- Local Granting
- Municipal interface



SOUTH HURON ADVISORY

- Local Relationships & Fund Development
- Local Granting
- Municipal interface (Vitality Fund)



HURON ENTREPRENEUR ADVISORY

- Local Relationships & Fund Development
- Local Granting
- Municipal interface



BAYFIELD ADVISORY

- Local Relationships & Fund Development
- Local Granting
- Municipal interface



FUTURE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

ACW & Goderich
 Bluewater
 North Middlesex
YOUR COMMUNITY

Expansion in ACW & Goderich, Bluewater, and North Middlesex is a current strategic priority.

Help SCF Make YOUR Community Even Better!



ADVISORY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

- Chair of Advisory leads their team
- **Advocate** from each Advisory site on the SCF Board (not the Advisory Chair)
- Common Handbook provided by SCF
- Transparency is critical for success
- Relationship + Fund Development Team in each area
- Granting Team in each area
- Geography of each area is set by local team
- Engage local partners (e.g., Lions, Rotary, Probus, and other community service organizations)

Greater Grand Bend Area Grant Recipients

Ageless Vitality Fitness (partner: Huron Shores United Church)
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
(partner: Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation)
Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron
Forest Curling & Social Club (partner: Mun. of Lambton Shores)
Forest Fritter Friends (partner: Sarnia Missionary Church)
Friends of Pinery Park
Grand Bend Arts Centre
Grand Bend Canada Day Celebration
(partner: Municipality of Lambton Shores)
Grand Bend Community Food Pantry (GBCFP)
(partner: Huron Shores United Church)
Grand Bend Area Community Health Centre
Grand Bend Public School (partner: Lambton Kent Public School Bld)
Huron Country Playhouse
Huron County Food Bank Distribution Centre
Huron County Local Immigration Partnership
Junior Achievement South Western Ontario
Jingle Bells Group (partner: Municipality of Lambton Shores)
Kiwanis Club of Forest (partner: Municipality of Lambton Shores)
Lake Huron Coastal Centre
Lakeshore Eco-Network
(partner: Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation)
Literacy Lambton (Organization for Literacy in Lambton)
RCL Branch 498 Grand Bend Legion
(partner: Municipality of Lambton Shores)
Scouts Canada – Camp Attawandaron
Siren Section (partner: Grand Bend Art Centre)
Southcott Pines
(partner: Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation)
West Coast Lions Club
(partner: Municipality of Lambton Shores)
Wildlife Preservation Canada
North Lambton Secondary School (Scholarships)
(partner: Lambton Kent Education Foundation)

South Huron Grant Recipients

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
(partner: Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation)
Avon Maitland School Board (Scholarships)
Community Advisory Council (CAC)
(partner: Grand Bend Area Community Health Centre)
Exeter Branch – Huron County Library
Exeter Elementary School
(partner: Avon Maitland District School Board)
Huron County Local Immigration Partnership
Huron Waves Music Festival
One Care Home and Community Support Services
RCL R.E.POOLEY BRANCH 167 EXETER
(partner: West Coast Active Living)
Salvation Army
Scouts Canada – Camp Attawandaron
South Huron Arts Centre (partner: Exeter United Church)
Stephen Central Public School – School Council
(partner: Avon Maitland District School Board)
United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH)
West Coast Active Living

Huron Entrepreneur Fund Grant Recipient

Clinton Public
Hospital Foundation

