



## Community Spirit & Thank You, from the Dorset Community Partnership Fund

On behalf of the Dorset Community Partnership Fund & the Dorset Health Hub Advisory Committee, we wanted to send a message of thanks to all in the Community for your ongoing support during these difficult times. We are unable to hold our Community meetings, so Ruth & I wanted to send the following thoughts to all.

It was just over 12 years ago that as a Community, we first came together as a group of caring citizens wanting to bring about positive changes to benefit the community of Dorset. You should all be very proud of the multiple accomplishments you have achieved in those 12 short years. To mention a few: The Children's Playground, the Gazebo and Docks at Cedar Narrows, our web site and community promotion print material, The Pavilion Park and the Dorset Community Health Care Hub. In addition to these projects, our Community charity, the Dorset Community Partnership Fund has contributed to several health care and recreational programs for all. We have supported other community led projects like the Lion's Centennial Park & the Dorset Heritage Museum. Collaboration goes a long way!

Our partnership with the SS Bigwin has brought our larger Community together where we do not differentiate between seasonal and local folks – we have come farther as one large Community. The Bigwin remains an “anchor tourism asset” for Dorset and the larger Lake of Bays community – thanks to co-operation. Our local businesses and friends on the many lakes have sponsored three successful theatre productions in support of our projects. Our church and social service groups have contributed to our community care initiatives. We are proud of our support to the Huntsville Hospital Foundation over the years. We have worked hard to ensure collaboration with our shared Township Councils and we thank them for their support. Over the past 8 years, we have raised over \$2 million dollars from our fundraising (thank you to all our generous donors) and government grants (District, County, Federal and Provincial). Our collective support to projects like support to Iron Man & the Huntsville Hospice do not go unnoticed. What a Community spirit!

So it is not surprising that we have come together to help each other during the challenge we all face with COVID 19. The response has been spontaneous and impressive, from organized initiatives like the Lions Food Delivery to all of those who are helping their neighbours.

Ruth and I know this first hand as we have been deemed essential workers affording us the opportunity to talk to many of you over the past couple of months. It is with that perspective that we write this note.

### Our Health

A huge thank you to Laurie, Tracey and Lynda at the Dorset Health Hub. We have heard from many who appreciate the support and “personal check ins” by telephone. We also want to thank our donors for ongoing support which allowed us to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning material for the Hub. We want to thank Sharon and her cleaning team for keeping the Hub in “tip top” shape. We want to thank Annie Dube & Ryan Kirkby (former students who worked with the Hub and HHF) who started the MuskokaPPE project and gave us protective shields. We want to thank the donors who support our food program we launched with Robinsons – food gift cards - contact us if you know someone in need. Also a big thanks to Peter Meraw of Dorset Pharmasave who partnered with us to run the Pharmacy support program for those in need of help with prescription and non-prescription pharmacy products. We anticipate a need to extend all of these supports given the unknown future of how COVID 19 will unfold.

We want to thank all of the first responders, fire, police and the many nurses and PSW’s responding to the needs of our Community. We want to thank Township employees from both Algonquin Highlands and Lake of Bays who keep our public infrastructure going. Thank you to all you essential worker colleagues of ours who keep things going – food, drinks and the mail to mention a few. Thanks to our partners at the Baysville and Dwight Food Pantries.

We have always seen ourselves as one Community working together – let’s continue to do so!

### Stay Well and Safe

Ruth Ross – Chair, Dorset Community Advisory Committee

Collin Reaney – Dorset Community Partnership Fund, Board Member

For more information or to donate, please contact [collinreaney@aol.com](mailto:collinreaney@aol.com) or 705-766-0616. Or, to donate, mail (cheque preferred), c/o Collin Reaney, DCPF, Box 158, Dorset, Ontario, POA 1E0.