



# 1000 Islands

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



35  
YEARS

1000 Islands CDC

*Supporting Business & Community Development For 35 Years*

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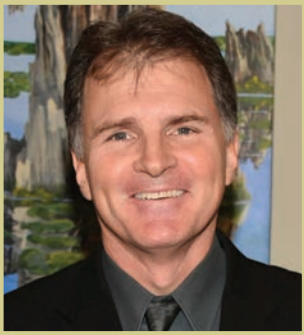
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Message from Executive Director

Thanks for taking a glance at this journey through time with the 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation. We have chronicled our history to celebrate those we serve and to take a satisfying trip down memory lane. Perhaps it will also provide inspiration for others to lend a hand and make a difference whenever possible. As you flip through the pages, you will undoubtedly notice that we have been entrusted with significant resources. Hopefully, you’ll agree that we have invested wisely.



We offer gratitude to the Government of Canada, FedDev, FedNor, Jim Jordan, Joe Jordan, Gord Brown, Michael Barrett, Bob Runciman and Steve Clark for 35 years of steadfast support (please see tribute on page 5) and we thank all the individuals and organizations who have helped us become a force for good across the region. Without them, none of this would have been possible.

We extend appreciation to our many friends in the media for being generous and kind to our corporation. By helping to spread our message, you have been part of the solution.

Also, very special thanks to everyone who assisted in the making of this publication, especially the incredibly talented Barry Hart from What If Graphics as well as Deanna Clark, Ian Cristine, Andy Wheeler and others for the generous use of some fabulous photography.

From a more personal perspective, my heartfelt gratitude goes out to Bob Nelson and Sherri Simzer for taking a chance over thirty years ago and hiring a young man with limited experience. Fortunately, we shared a similar passion for our community. I am forever in your debt.

Thanks to every volunteer director and professional staff member for gracing us with your presence down through the years. Specifically, to Candace Fox for recently bringing your vast knowledge and inquisitive mind to our team and, to my dear friend, Janice Lawrence, for your decades-long dedication, brilliance and loyalty. You are simply the best.

Of course, my deepest affection, constant admiration and profound respect are reserved for my darling wife, Kimberley. Your beautiful spirit and kind heart have made the world a much better place, often one student at a time. Thank you for sharing your life with me, you are my only one.

Finally, to my hero parents, Emma and Ron Russell, for teaching compassion, kindness, honesty and morality while also sharing the highs and lows of running a small business. My heart is full of love and gratitude for you both.

This retrospective is dedicated to small business owners and community champions the world over.

Tom Russell  
Executive Director  
1000 Islands Community Development Corporation

Messages from Members of Parliament, Present & Past

Please accept my congratulations for this incredible milestone of the 35-year anniversary of the 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation and all the tremendous achievements your organization has accomplished throughout the community.



One of the many things that makes our community a wonderful place to live, work, and build a life is the commitment and support of organizations like the 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation working in partnership with local businesses, entrepreneurs, municipal and town officials, and a strong network of community leaders and volunteers to help businesses reach their goal in a supportive environment where people can grow and prosper.

I am deeply proud of the people in our community and to have the privilege to serve as your Member of Parliament. You have my commitment to keep working together to promote more jobs, development, and prosperity for our region, and to continue advocating for reliable funding from the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

Thank you to everyone involved in the 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation, past and present, for your commitment to our community. By providing the services and tools to help businesses reach their goals and creating a supportive environment for our community to grow and prosper, I am optimistic and excited for the opportunities that our community will create and have to offer.

Once again, congratulations to the 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation on 35 years of excellence and service, here is looking forward to many more!

Michael Barrett  
Member of Parliament  
Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands  
and Rideau Lakes

Please allow me to acknowledge, recognize and congratulate the 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation for 35 years of fostering and supporting local entrepreneurs. I have been, and always will be, a strong supporter of both the policy



underpinnings and the operational model of Community Futures Development Corporations. It is a model that works very well, especially in smaller communities.

Using the knowledge and experience of successful local businesspeople to evaluate and work with local applicants in support of local economic development objectives is both an efficient and effective way to implement sound public policy and the results don’t lie. Thirty-five years of lending a cumulative total amount of \$40,000,000 to hundreds of businesses across the entire area has had a dramatic effect on the entrepreneurial landscape of the 1000 Islands and all of Leeds & Grenville, impacting thousands of jobs along the way.

The strategic and intelligent use of Government of Canada community development and job growth programing dollars has also garnered tremendous results. I have seen firsthand the difference it can make to fund a business plan, assist with training, invest in technological upgrades or simply offer sound and sage advice. I have also watched with pride as the 1000 Islands CDC has helped build a public infrastructure through investments in such important initiatives as the Thousand Islands Boat Museum, the Canada 150 Gord Brown Memorial Outdoor Rink and the Brockville Public Library.

So, as your former Member of Parliament and as a loyal supporter of the work you continue to do, I offer hearty congratulations on your 35th Anniversary. Let’s hope you have many more.

Honourable Joe Jordan, P.C.  
Former Member of Parliament  
Leeds-Grenville



# About Us

*The 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation is a community based, non-profit organization funded by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario and governed by a local board of volunteer directors. We aim to strengthen our communities by investing in sustainable economic development initiatives and meaningful job creation projects throughout the 1000 Islands region.*

The corporation was established in 1995 when two previous Government of Canada programs, the Brockville-Leeds Community Futures Committee and the Brockville-Leeds Business Development Centre, merged into one full-service entity. These two forerunner organizations were established in 1988, thereby making this year our 35th Anniversary!!

## BUSINESS LOANS

We offer commercial loans to new and existing businesses when financing from traditional sources may be unavailable or insufficient. We have the resources necessary to assist our business community.

- New Start-ups
- Expansions
- Renovations
- Acquisitions
- Succession Planning



We are one of sixty-one Community Futures Development Corporations in Ontario funded by the Govern-

## BUSINESS SERVICES

Our prosperity and quality of life depend upon a healthy business community with thriving entrepreneurs and abundant employment opportunities. We offer a wide range of services designed to help.

- Business Advice & Counselling
- Referrals To Specialists
- Liaison With Lenders
- Business Plan Assistance
- Program Information

ment of Canada and administered in our region by the Federal Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario). The objective is to promote economic stability, growth and job creation leading to more diversified, competitive and economically sustainable communities.

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

We seek to strengthen our local communities and regional economy by working in conjunction with our many partners in economic development. With very generous support from the Government of Canada we have invested tens of millions of dollars in local economic development initiatives, infrastructure enhancement and long-term growth strategies.



## Appreciation

We are sincerely grateful to the Government of Canada and FedDev Ontario for the faith and trust they have consistently shown in us. We take our role very seriously, but never take anything for granted. Trust is an earned commodity.

As a federally funded corporation, we have had the privilege of working closely with our Members of Parliament. We express profound gratitude to each of them for their steadfast support. To MP Jim Jordan for his leadership, guidance and mentoring long before and well after his time in office. He laid the foundation upon which we have continued to build. To MP Joe Jordan for his wisdom, dedication and friendship year in and year out. As one of the architects establishing FedDev Ontario, he helped to create a framework that

“Our region has been blessed with phenomenal representation.”

will enable billions of dollars to flow into southern Ontario economic development initiatives for years to come. To MP Gord Brown for his kindness, loyalty and support through thick and thin. He was instrumental in growing the Eastern Ontario Development Program which brought tens of millions of dollars of financial assistance to businesses and organizations across the region. To MP Michael Barrett for his early endorsement of our program and for the tremendous promise that lies ahead. We look forward to many years of working with him to change lives for the better.

We have also had the great pleasure of collaborating for years with our exceptional Members of Provincial Parliament, Mr. Bob Runciman and Mr. Steve Clark, who have never wavered in their support of the 1000 Islands CDC and who have routinely found ways to guide, advise and finance countless community initiatives for decades on end.

We owe a significant debt of gratitude to all of these gentlemen for their perseverance, their professionalism and their dedication. Our region has been blessed with phenomenal representation over these past 35 years.



Jim Jordan - MP



Joe Jordan - MP



Gord Brown - MP



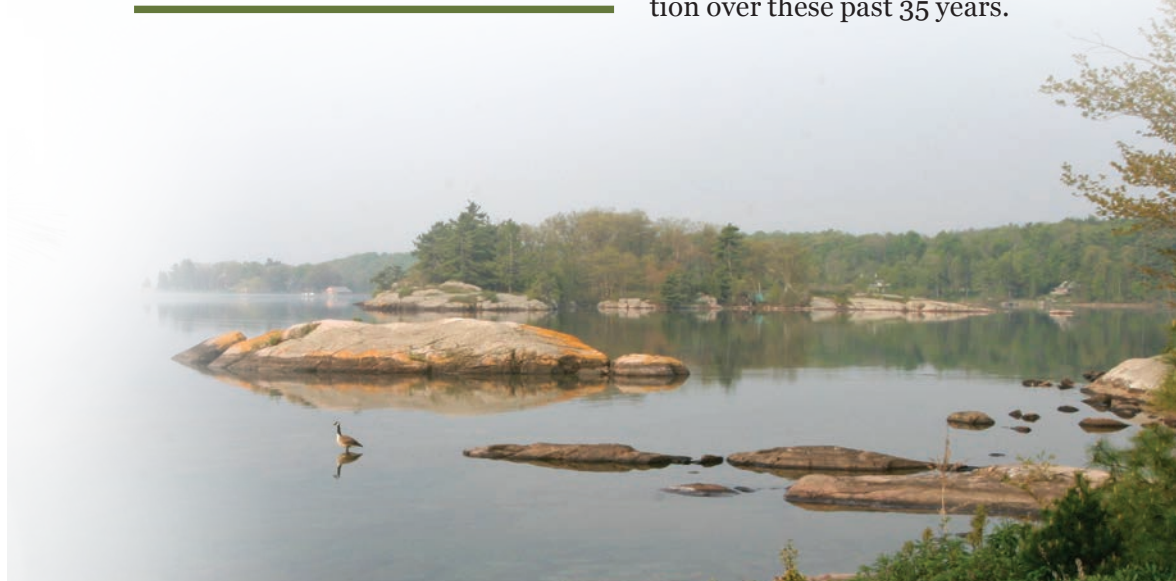
Michael Barrett - MP



Bob Runciman - MPP



Steve Clark - MPP





# Business Loans & Support

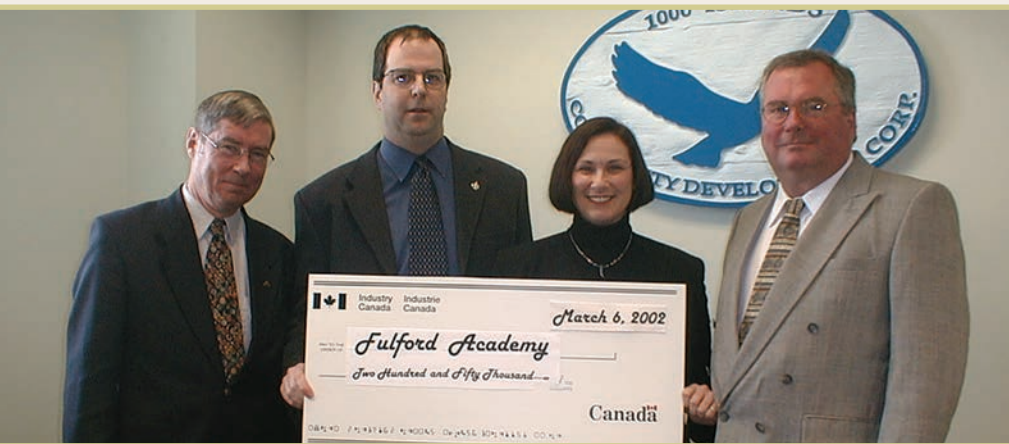
An original Government of Canada investment of \$1,500,000 established a loan fund to provide access to capital for local businesses. The fund has grown to \$9,000,000 with an average of 30 businesses receiving assistance annually. We are only able to highlight a few but are proud to have provided financing to several hundred.

35 Years | 975 Loans  
**\$1,500,000**  
 Original Investment

**\$9,000,000**  
 Current Loan Fund Portfolio

**\$40,000,000**  
 Lent To Date

**\$200,000,000**  
 Leveraged To Date (Thousands Of Jobs Impacted)



MP Joe Jordan presents \$250,000 of support to Fulford Academy. Several private investors also contributed financial assistance and periodic guidance to ensure the necessary resources were in place for success. Fulford Academy is a dynamic force in the business of education, employing dozens and educating hundreds annually.

“If it weren’t for  
 1000 Islands CDC  
 there wouldn’t  
 be a Fulford  
 Academy.”

*Suzan Kendall, Co-owner,  
 Fulford Academy*



MP Gord Brown announces a million dollar start-up fund for workers displaced by the closure of Procter & Gamble in Brockville. Zero percent interest rates and attractive repayment plans made this fund very popular. The businesses who utilized this program are now thriving as new entrepreneurs.

## Business Loans and Support



Betty’s Sign Studio officially opened in the fall of 2020. The company creates unique family name signs, commemorative wall signs, emblems, insignias, entry gates and a wide range of other artistic products. Many are retirement gifts for people from every profession imaginable.



Rideau Fit Co. is a boutique style gym specializing in functional fitness for everyday living. It provides a wide range of high quality, commercial grade strength training and cardio equipment in a clean, safe and friendly environment. Beginner exercisers and seasoned fitness enthusiasts are welcomed.



“TICDC support  
 made it possible  
 for us to expand  
 operations and  
 create dozens of  
 jobs in Brockville  
 and dozens more  
 across Ontario.”

*Bruce Lounsbury,  
 CEO, Newterra*

Newterra manufactures small sewage and greywater treatment systems that are built as container units and shipped around the world. The \$410,000 investment made by the 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation allowed the company to expand production into a neighboring facility and create an additional 70 full-time jobs. Newterra operations contribute an estimated \$20 million to the local economy each year.



“We sincerely thank the 1000 Islands CDC for allowing us to be in business and for giving us the means to grow.”

*Michael Palaisy,  
President, DRP Inc.*



Distribution Repair & Packaging Services (DRP) refurbishes small appliances, power tools and electronics. Early on, conventional lenders would not assist the company, so the 1000 Islands CDC did ... and then proudly watched as it grew to fifty employees over the next decade.



“To grow a business like ours, it takes people to invest in the community. TICDC was there to help when we needed it most.”

*Roger White, Owner,  
Tincap Golf Course*

Golf courses are expensive to operate, but we have been here to help whenever possible. We were overjoyed to assist the owners of Tincap Golf Course all the way back in 2003 so they could build a beautiful clubhouse in support of this nine-hole beauty of a course. Fore!



Apple Ridge Farm provides an open concept style of dog boarding throughout the year. It also offers horse riding lessons, horse birthday parties and kids riding camps. The owners joyfully proclaim that they are “a resort for dogs” with most business coming from repeat customers. It really is a dog’s life.



The Ivy Restaurant, located in Ivy Lea, provides a wonderful dining experience situated on the banks of the St. Lawrence River in the heart of the 1000 Islands. We are so thankful for this exceptional restaurant and we encourage everybody to give it a try. The setting and the food are simply divine. Bon appetit!



“I tell everyone how fantastic the 1000 Islands CDC is! They were instrumental when I first started out. Quite simply, they give businesses hope.”

*Wendy Banks, Owner,  
Wendy's Country Market*

Wendy’s Country Market is located in Lyndhurst and is as charming a place as you’ll ever find, with visitors experiencing a magical step back in time. Wendy’s business philosophy places a premium on local flavours thereby ensuring that there are sales outlets available for local producers and suppliers. Sustainability and an emphasis on community has created a winning recipe for success.



# Pandemic Response

## Regional Relief & Recovery Fund

Effects of the Covid-19 worldwide pandemic continue to be felt by many small business owners and their employees. Governments from across the world implemented countless support programs to help those in need.

In southern Ontario, the Regional Relief & Recovery Fund (RRRF) complimented the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) offered by the traditional banking community. The 1000 Islands CDC supported dozens of businesses and social enterprises who accessed millions of dollars in loans and grants. We remain hopeful that recovery will be as swift and painless as possible, but we also stand prepared to help in any way we can.



Significant advertising and promotional efforts were utilized to spread the news of this funding opportunity. Demand was high and support was widely welcomed.

**56**  
Businesses Supported

**\$3,105,000**  
Invested

**335**  
Jobs Impacted



Career Services is a highly valued community partner and significant job creator in our community. The new 'kollage SQUARE Needles' manufacturing division is a welcome addition to the work done here, continuing years of excellence from this organization.



Marble Rock Construction used RRRF funding to expand its portfolio during the pandemic. It added three employees and purchased new equipment to streamline operations, tighten timelines and increase profitability.



The pandemic hit small retailers particularly hard as consumers turned away from those they had traditionally patronized in favour of on-line distribution giants. If smaller communities hope to have a future, this trend needs to be reversed. Please visit places like The Green Gecko in Lyndhurst. It's absolutely fabulous!



Reliance on the tourism industry left small hoteliers particularly vulnerable to Covid-19 when tourism was effectively ground to a complete halt. Wonderful gems like 1000 Islands Bed & Breakfast were provided some welcome relief through RRRF support and now it is time for all of us to help. Pack your bags and go.



Several industries were deeply impacted by the pandemic, with restaurants near the top of the list. Most had to close their doors while others survived by offering take-out options, often generating a fraction of the income that would have been realized during normal times. For many, the struggle continues as high levels of inflation and shortages of staff continue to further reduce bottom lines. Relief programs help, but they are not a panacea so, please take your family out to eat as often as you can. They'll love you for it and your dining experience will be vastly elevated by knowing that you are helping hard working entrepreneurs put food on their tables, too.





# Rural Innovation Initiative

Investments in innovation and technology are critically important if we are to compete on the global stage. The Rural Innovation Initiative for Eastern Ontario encouraged small and medium sized enterprises to expand business growth and adopt advanced innovation processes.

Projects funded by this program were required to demonstrate sustainability and drive prosperity through innovation, research and development, commercialization and business practices positioning the region for global competitiveness, export markets and economic diversification. Special attention was paid to projects in advanced manufacturing, clean technology, digital industries, agri-food and food processing. All initiatives were also required to be fully inclusive and socially progressive.



The Rural Innovation Initiative proved very popular with dozens of companies applying for limited available funding, suggesting that innovation is being widely embraced across our region.

**16**  
Businesses Supported

**\$1,050,000**  
Invested Locally

**258**  
Jobs Impacted



Big River Technologies provides technical consulting, application architecture design and custom software development to enterprises in financial services, healthcare and other industries in North America and Europe.



Burnbrae Farms is Canada's largest integrated producer and marketer of eggs and egg products. It is a thriving participant in Canadian agri-business, selling eggs and egg products to major grocery chains, food service operations and large bakery customers throughout Canada and the United States.

## Rural Innovation Initiative



Canarm is a global marketer and manufacturer of lighting, air moving equipment and related products, supplying the residential and agriculture markets. Customers include wholesalers, retailers and distributors.



Wills Transfer provides world-class supply chain services including warehousing, inventory control, order fulfillment, transportation, outsourcing solutions and management of a diverse range of products.



Northern Cables Inc. is a world-class manufacturer of commercial and industrial power cables. Raw materials used in the manufacturing process are sourced in North America and finished products qualify for NAFTA designation. The company was established in the late 1990's following the closure of the Phillips Cables manufacturing facility in Brockville. The 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation is extremely proud to have joined forces with others to provide start-up financing for this now thriving, and critically important, enterprise.

"I have to thank the 1000 Islands CDC for playing a key part in financing our start-up."

Shelley Bacon, President,  
Northern Cables Inc.



# Eastern Ontario Development Program / Fund

The highly successful Eastern Ontario Development Program followed the equally important Eastern Ontario Development Fund. Both are testaments that intelligent government investment can have long lasting, positive impact on our communities.

Much of this funding was directed to public sector efforts that will be highlighted later in this publication under sections dedicated to community economic development. However, there were also dozens of contributions made to private sector recipients in the areas of skills training, business planning, façade improvements and equipment upgrades. The need for continuous and lasting job creation support is at the very core of our mandate and nobody does this better than those in the private sector. We will only highlight a few, but we are proud to have helped many.



James Ross Ltd. specializes in metal/stainless steel processing with output reaching 500 tons annually. This work requires very sophisticated equipment due to the precision that is necessary. We were proud to provide \$100,000 towards the purchase of a state-of-the-art laser cutter as well as additional funding to support corresponding skills training costs. This investment has fueled significant company growth and employment.



KC Spencer & Associates is a physical risk management solution company specializing in working with small businesses and municipalities to provide an option for overburdened employees responsible for health and safety regulation compliance. We were happy to assist with start-up costs and have enjoyed watching this company grow. Please support local providers as often as you can.



As part of an aggressive growth strategy, Gananoque Home Hardware doubled staff levels while rapidly expanding operations from 9,000 square feet to a much larger facility of 80,000 square feet. The Eastern Ontario Development Program was utilized to provide significant financial assistance to help train 35 new employees as well as 40 existing ones. This store has become a fixture for the entire surrounding area.



Serving domestic and international markets, Canada Music Academy is an innovative music school offering lessons to students of all ages and talent levels. It was our pleasure to assist as the company expanded operations beyond previous traditional markets by making sizable investments in information technology. This was necessary in order to allow the company to become a leading player on the global stage.



The continued evolution of Gananoque Brewing Company has seen it become a regular stop for tourists and locals alike. The 1000 Islands CDC has been a supportive partner providing Eastern Ontario Development Program funding to assist with costs associated with expert business planning, state-of-the-art equipment acquisition and world-class skills training. Cheers!

“The 1000 Islands CDC was responsive, accommodating and very, very helpful.”

Bruce Davis, President,  
Gananoque Brewing Company





It's always a pleasure to assist with the expansion efforts of local businesses. We were pleased to provide Eastern Ontario Development Program funding in support of Gananoque's Thomson Fasteners for the purchase of technologically advanced equipment and for the training of new and existing full-time staff.

Assisting smaller businesses in smaller communities is our highest priority. If you were to visit this company website, you would be greeted with the following message ... "Wing's Live Bait has been putting the Village of Lyndhurst on the map as one of the best outdoors outfitters in Eastern Ontario." We couldn't agree more.



"We are introducing new technologies and assistance under EODP allows us to increase investment into our valuable employees."

*Steve Bradford,  
Training Program Leader,  
Trillium Health Care Products*

Trillium Health Care Products manufactures a wide variety of health and personal care products and pharmaceuticals at its location in Brockville. EODP funding was provided to assist with training employees in hydraulics, pneumatics, programmable logic controls and electrical skills.



Camalor Manufacturing is a metal fabrication company. Operations such as tube bending, small stamping, welding and finishing are all part of the expertise offered here. The 1000 Islands CDC has been a strong supporter, regularly providing equipment upgrades and staff training assistance as needed.



Fedorki Performance provides mechanical design, fabrication and machining services to a large number of industrial, commercial, and public partners throughout North America. We were pleased to assist this company in its pursuit of customs brokerage licenses for several staff members staff.



"Truespeed is extremely grateful for the support received from the 1000 Islands CDC. It has meant the world to us."

*Adam MacGregor, President,  
Truespeed Internet Services*

We have forged a lasting relationship with Truespeed Internet Services, a company that has competed with and held its own against very powerful, much larger giants in the industry. This is the very definition of a small business success story and it has been rewarding for us to play a helpful role as this company continues to build significant communications infrastructure designed to serve its expanding customer base.



# Business Counselling, Workshops & Seminars

On average, we provide over 200 business counselling sessions per year with over 5,000 conducted since our inception. This type of support leads to businesses making better decisions, thereby dramatically improving their chances of long-term survival.



The 1000 Islands CDC partnered with several others to deliver the highly successful Self Employment Benefit program which afforded hundreds of new entrepreneurs the opportunity to receive weeks long, in-depth training to prepare for a life of self-employment. We are grateful for our friends with Government of Canada, Grenville Community Futures Development Corporation, St. Lawrence College, Academy of Learning, Clark College and others for making this possible.

The Leeds & Grenville Small Business Enterprise Centre plays a significant role in advancing the cause of entrepreneurs across the entire region, providing expert advice and innovative programming on a daily basis. We are proud to assist these important efforts with financial support, client mentorship, business plan review and committee participation. Our years long friendship has served both organizations very well.



**5**  
Events Sponsored Annually

**200**  
Counselling Sessions Annually

**5,000**  
Interactions Since Inception

“It was a tremendous joy to watch hundreds of clients grow from the SEB experience.”

*Kim Benson, Business Loans Officer, 1000 Islands CDC*

Over the years, we have been fortunate to partner with several community organizations and job creation agencies to deliver dozens of valuable workshops, seminars, information sessions and training opportunities. We are thankful for so many dedicated professionals who work in this field as hundreds of existing and potential small business owners have benefitted greatly from their expertise. In modern times, it is especially true that information is power, which makes educating entrepreneurs more important than ever.



“I am so proud to be part of this wonderful event. It’s always quite exceptional, year in and year out.”

*MPP Steve Clark*

One of the most significant opportunities to learn about our community arrives annually in the form of the Leeds & Grenville Economic Development Summit. This impressive event draws hundreds of people and features keynote speakers of great consequence. The above photograph shows 10th Anniversary celebrations taking place in 2018. This event is organized and delivered by the skilled professionals working at the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville Economic Development Department. We are privileged to provide periodic input and financial support for such valuable experiences and we cherish our friendship with the organizers.





## Business Recognition

We believe that excellence should be widely celebrated, which is precisely why we invest so much time, energy and money to ensure that proper appreciation is shown to those who deserve it most. We have sponsored and presented countless business and community awards, primarily through partnerships with our local chambers of commerce.



We are proud to sponsor the Lifetime Business Achievement Award bestowed annually by the Brockville & District Chamber of Commerce upon the very best our community has to offer. Determining criteria include community involvement, mentorship, economic impact, job creation, volunteerism, longevity and personal/corporate generosity. Past recipients include Larry VanderBaaren, Joe Hudson, Paul Fournier, Hunter Grant, Gord Brown, David Beatty (pictured above right), Bob Runciman, Al Smith, Dave Sheridan, Don Green, Sherri Simzer (pictured above left), John & Steve Mazurek and Dave Jones.



It was a profound honour to present the 2018 Gananoque & Area Citizen of the Year Award to brothers Jeff and Gord Brown, not long after Gord's tragic passing. As shown above, Gord's wife Claudine Courtois and his brother Jeff were both on hand to accept and to offer thanks. A short time later, we were equally touched to posthumously present Gord with the Brockville & Area Lifetime Business Achievement Award.

**"MP Brown was a true force of nature who changed countless lives for the better. His legacy won't soon be forgotten."**

*Tom Russell, Executive Director, 1000 Islands CDC*

## Community Partnerships

When it comes to the economic growth of any community, individuals and organizations must work in tandem to ensure the highest likelihood of success. The 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation has been blessed to exist in an area where so many routinely give so much. We are eternally grateful for all those who put service above self in pursuit of the greater good.



In partnership with the City of Brockville, the 1000 Islands CDC was instrumental in securing long-term funding to establish and operate the Leeds & Grenville Small Business Enterprise Centre which continues to work closely with countless entrepreneurs every year. MP Michael Barrett recently joined program officials and CFDC representatives to announce an exciting new opportunity for women entrepreneurs.



MPP Steve Clark presents \$100,000 of Ontario Trillium Fund (OTF) assistance for the Canada 150 Gord Brown Memorial Outdoor Rink. The OTF has become an increasingly important financial support system for local projects and community services. We applaud Mr. Clark for his vital role in securing a spot for our executive director on the OTF regional grant review team.



The purpose of this 35th Anniversary retrospective is to celebrate the 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation and those we serve. For all of the positive impact that has taken place, it behooves us to remember that none of it would have been possible without the commitment and generosity of the Government of Canada and the Federal Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev). Along with CFDC colleagues, we were excited to recently host FedDev representatives to discuss solutions for the future.



# Community Economic Development - Tourism

The 1000 Islands CDC is well known for investment and management of tens of millions of dollars in economic development programming and job creation initiatives. The list of those who have benefitted is widespread and exhaustive. A few are highlighted herein.

Priority Community Economic Development areas include:

- Tourism
- Arts, Culture & Recreation
- Education, Training & Youth Opportunities
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Information Gathering & Sharing

## Rockport Customs House

After decades of being closed off and falling into disrepair, the originally built in 1934 Rockport Customs House was restored to its former glory and returned to the public in 2018. This project remains a true labour of love, representing the best of community spirit and participation. The photograph below shows the very last Eastern Ontario Development Program cheque presentation ever to be made by MP Gord Brown as he tragically passed away only a few short days later. MP Brown was the central figure in negotiations with the federal government to release the property to the Friends of Rockport Customs (FORC) committee and his earlier efforts helped forge the path to a \$50,000,000 EODP windfall for Eastern Ontario. Fittingly, the facility was officially named in MP Brown's honour.

**"This place is absolutely amazing! We thank MP Brown, the 1000 Islands CDC and everyone else who contributed."**

*Wendy Merkley, Chairperson, Friends of Rockport Customs*



## Aquatarium

The Brockville Aquatarium is a recently built 30,000 square foot interactive education space where visitors and locals alike learn the unique history, culture and ecosystems of the 1000 Islands region. All levels of government were required to invest for this multi-million-dollar tourism cornerstone to be built. Opened in 2015, this remarkable facility welcomes tens of thousands of visitors annually, with the sold-out "Mermaid March Break" experiences leading the way. The 1000 Islands CDC is so proud to have played an important role in the creation of the Aquatarium, investing over \$1,000,000 and financing the original feasibility study recommending its development. We offer special thanks to our friends at Eastern Ontario and Grenville Community Futures for also seeing the wisdom to support this truly regional attraction in such a meaningful way. Dream big. It's worth it!



**"We are so thankful for the Government of Canada, the 1000 Islands CDC and the Eastern Ontario Development Program."**

*Bill Rogerson, Executive Director, Brockville Aquatarium*





## Thousand Islands Boat Museum

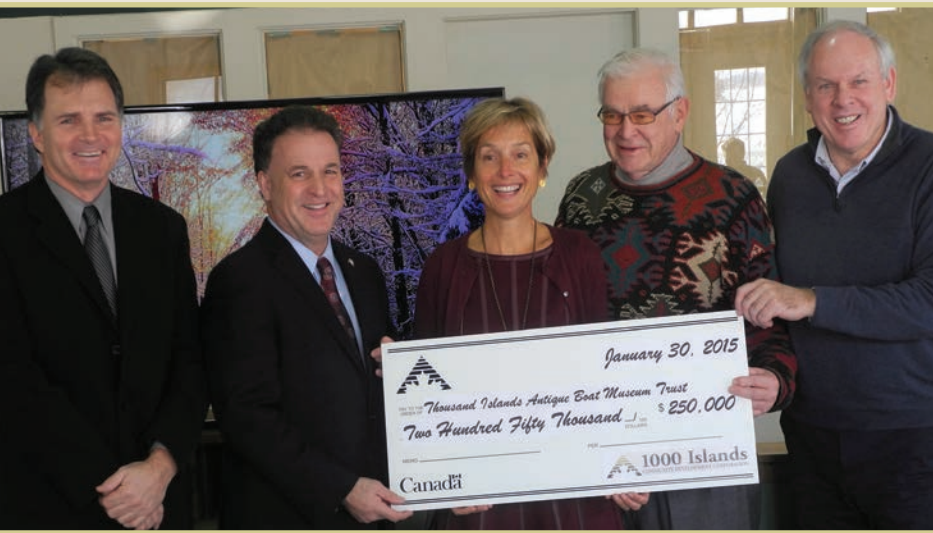
The Thousand Islands Boat Museum brings the heritage of the region and magic spirit of the islands to life. Visitors experience a part of this special place by riding in boats, helping to restore older vessels and viewing antique watercraft that have been on the river for generations. They also wander through recreated island cottages and hear stories of people whose entire lives have been centered on and around the river.



The 1000 Islands CDC is proud to have been a long-time partner of this museum, having cumulatively made over \$1,000,000 worth of investments in the planning, building, staffing and expansion of the facility. We look forward to many years of successful tourism seasons ahead. Ships ahoy!

“The 1000 Islands CDC has been instrumental in the development of this wonderful facility. I don’t know where we’d be without them.”

*Susanne Richter, Executive Director, Thousand Islands Boat Museum*



## Arthur Child Heritage Centre / 1000 Islands History Museum

Founded in 1995, the 1000 Islands History Museum tells the story of Gananoque’s varied history, from glaciers and muskies to pirates and picnickers. People can discover a place where past meets present by visiting interactive exhibits, relaxing on the waterfront veranda or browsing a unique gift shop. This museum is located in the Arthur J.E. Child building, which has an interesting origin story of its own. Intent on developing a world-class tourism attraction along the shores of the St. Lawrence River, the Town of Gananoque opted to create the Historic 1000 Islands Village and, thanks to the tenacity of MP Jim Jordan, a Government of Canada / 1000 Islands CDC contribution of \$333,000 was coupled with a \$250,000 donation from its namesake ... and the Arthur Child Heritage Centre was officially born. This building became the village’s natural centrepiece and it has been evolving ever since.



MP Jim Jordan played an integral role in securing \$333,000 of federal funding for the development of the Arthur Child Heritage Centre. In early 1994, his relentless pursuit led him directly to the desk of Prime Minister Chretien who ultimately approved this project, the last ever financed under the Community Initiatives Fund.



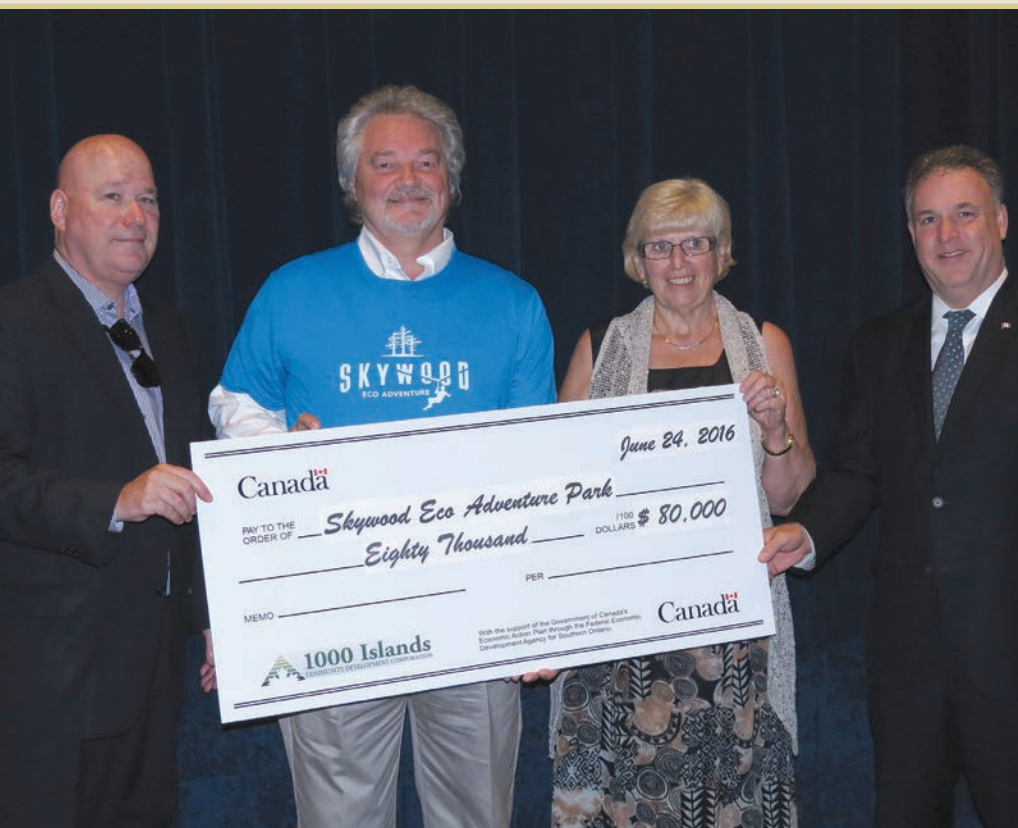
“There is a broad commitment throughout the community for this project. I’m just glad that I could help.”

*MP Jim Jordan*



## St. Lawrence Parks Commission

The St. Lawrence Parks Commission is responsible for one of the largest tourism destinations in all of Ontario, extending 200 km from Kingston to near the Quebec border. Facilities include thousands of hectares of park land and attractions along the St. Lawrence Heritage Corridor that provide a major source of recreation for residents and visitors to the Eastern Ontario Gateway to Ontario. The 1000 Islands CDC is very grateful for the St. Lawrence Parks Commission and we are pleased to have played a small role in assisting with the development of a few of its attractions, including support for the adventurous Skywood Eco Adventure Park (Treetop Trekking), the recreational 1000 Islands Bike Path and the relaxing Ivy Lea Campground.



“We are stardust,  
we are golden ...  
and we’ve got to get  
ourselves back to  
the garden.”

*Joni Mitchell, Legendary  
Canadian Singer-Songwriter*



## Brockville Historic Tunnel

In 1860, Canada’s first railway tunnel was built in Brockville to allow for the shipping of timber and manufactured goods between the Ottawa Valley and St. Lawrence River, then to New York City and other major outlets in North America. For its time, this 525-metre tunnel was a major feat of engineering and it remains a remarkable example of Canada’s pre-confederation industrial heritage. It is a significant part of our history and it needed help so, for over a decade, volunteers developed plans, secured approvals, raised funds and contracted the work to restore the tunnel for the benefit of tourism and economic development. We were pleased to offer financial support and we thank all those who had a hand in making this dream a reality. The results are spectacular!



“There was a time  
in this fair land when  
the railroad did  
not run.”

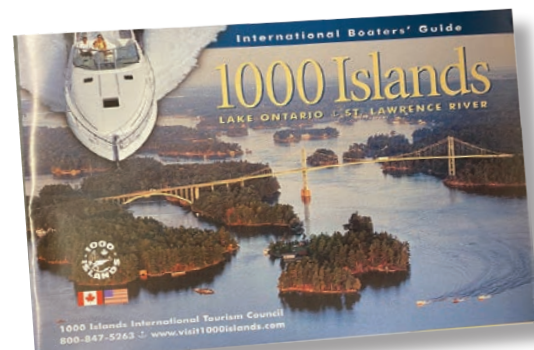
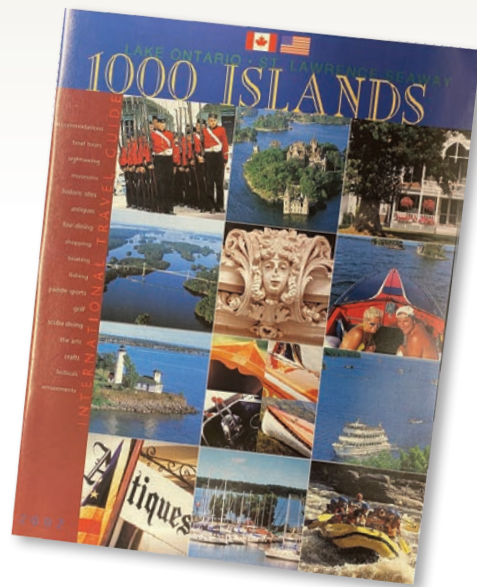
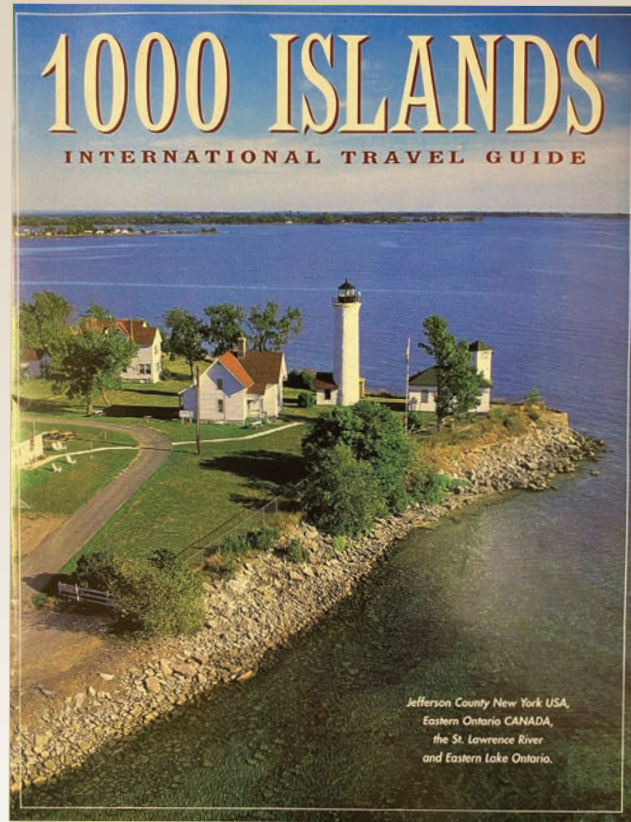
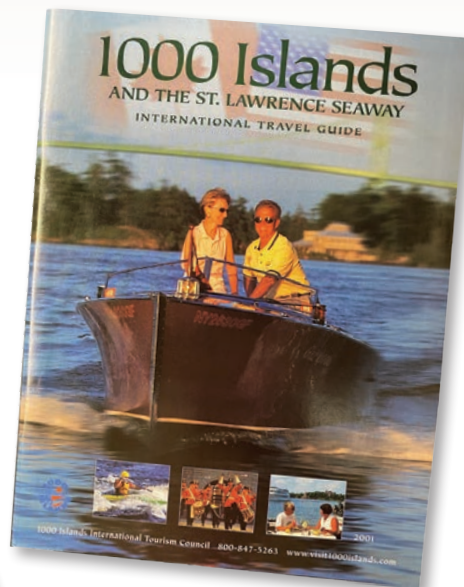
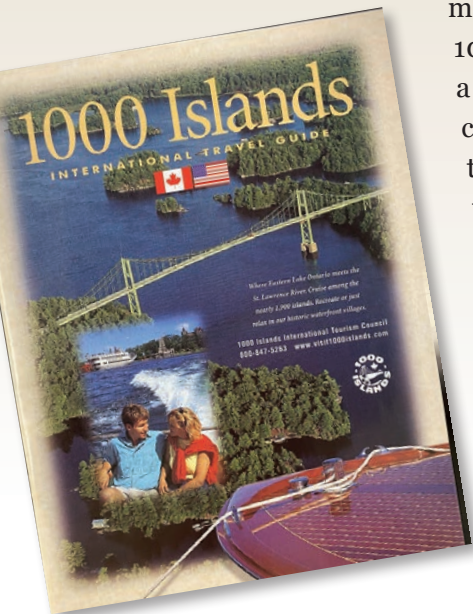
*Gordon Lightfoot, Legendary  
Canadian Singer-Songwriter*





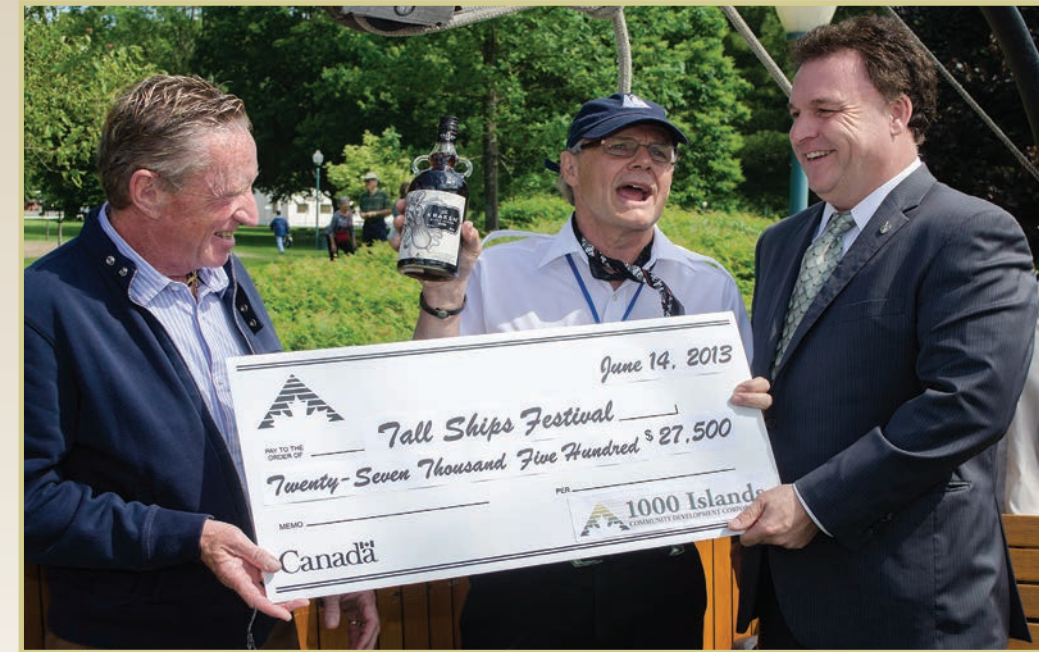
## St. Lawrence Marketing Partnership

Way back in 1998, the 1000 Islands CDC spearheaded efforts to improve cooperation and coordination between marketing agencies on both sides of our international border. The original impetus was to replace multiple publications with one all-encompassing travel guide (and complimentary promotional video) for the entire 1000 Islands region. Hence, the birth of the St. Lawrence Marketing Partnership, remnants of which echo to this very day in the form of regional tourism organizations and international marketing agencies. The results were so successful that further investments of more than one million dollars were made in 1000 Islands travel centres, additional promotional campaigns, creation of travel trade programs, participation in trade shows and many other worthy tourism related initiatives. Who says you can't teach old dogs new tricks?



## Festivals & Events

Given the scenic beauty of our landscape and the friendly nature of our people, it's only natural for the 1000 Islands region to have had a rich history of festivals and events to celebrate. From Riverfest to 1000 Islands Wine & Food Festival, from Festival of the Islands to Joel Stone Park Concert Series, from 1812 Gunboat Regatta to Tall Ships Festival, from Great Balloon Rodeo to Lynhurst Turkey Fair, from Nickle Cup to Brockville Hydroplane Races, and on and on it has gone. We have been proud partners of each of the aforementioned events, along with many others, providing financial aid and sometimes even administrative support. We salute the thousands of volunteers who continue to bring us such world class entertainment while enticing countless visitors to come see what all the fuss is about.







## Canada 150 Gord Brown Memorial Outdoor Rink

The 1000 Islands CDC is sincerely grateful to MP Gord Brown for his unwavering support of our program and for his selfless dedication to his community. In his honour, we worked closely with his family to raise over \$1,200,000 for the creation of an outdoor ice rink in his memory.

With the support of friends and colleagues from all political persuasions, we were able to secure the Canada 150 Outdoor Rink from the Government of Canada (originally constructed on Parliament Hill to celebrate Canada's sesqui-centennial) and have it relocated to Gord's hometown of Gananoque.

Aside from this being a fitting tribute to a great man, a sizable economic impact is also expected as people visit the site to skate on the original Canada 150 Outdoor Rink and as Town of Gananoque tourism officials arrange outdoor activities using this new community asset as a centrepiece attraction.



Given the pivotal role that MP Brown played in securing Eastern Ontario Development Program funding, it seemed entirely appropriate that the \$100,027 contribution used to kick-start the Gord Brown Memorial Outdoor Rink fundraising campaign was, in fact, the very last project ever funded under EODP. In case you are wondering, the "27" represents Gordie's hockey jersey number.

"There is little doubt that Gord would be incredibly proud to see such a tribute in his honour and he would only ask that everyone just go out on the rink and have fun."

*Jeff Brown, Fundraising Chairman and Gord's Brother*



Although slightly delayed due to multiple Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, the Canada 150 Gord Brown Memorial Outdoor Rink officially opened to the public in early 2022. The staggering amount of money raised in such a short period of time from a relatively tiny community is a clear testament to the affection and appreciation felt for Mr. Brown. To put it into proper perspective, the amount raised is the per capita equivalent of raising over one billion dollars in the Greater Toronto Area.



In the game featured above, Storrington takes on Gananoque in U11 action under the lights on Gord's rink. Many other games have taken place with many more to come. We sure hope he enjoys watching with an unobstructed view from above. Rest In Peace, and thanks for everything, Gord.



## Thank You Gord



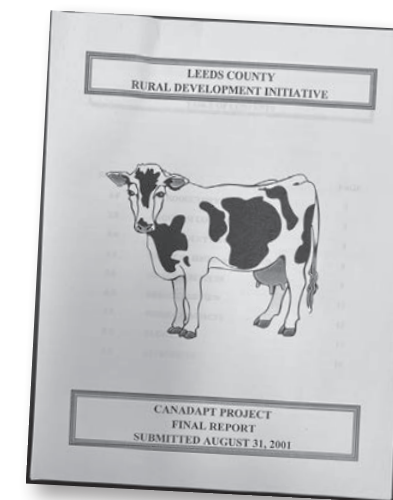
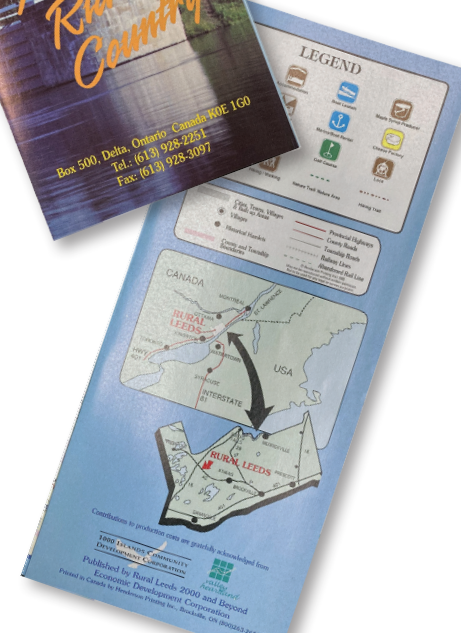
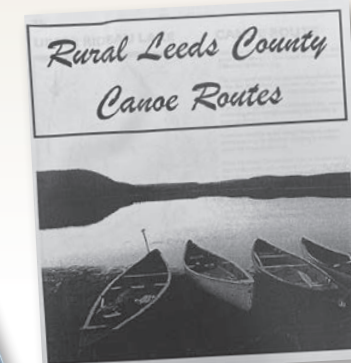
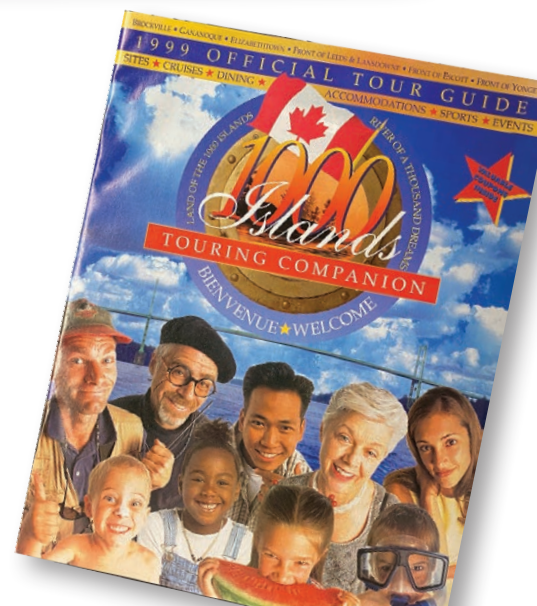
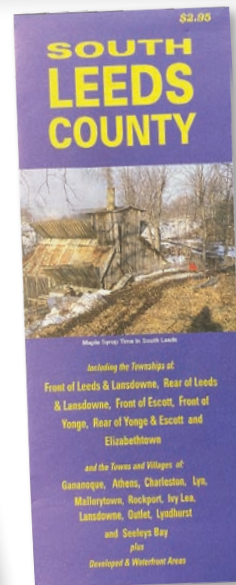
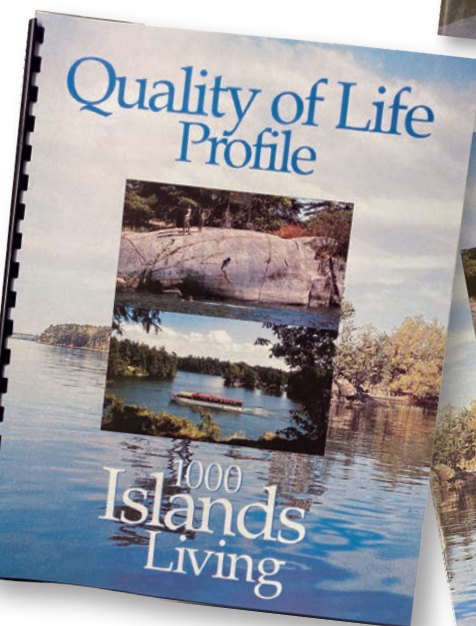
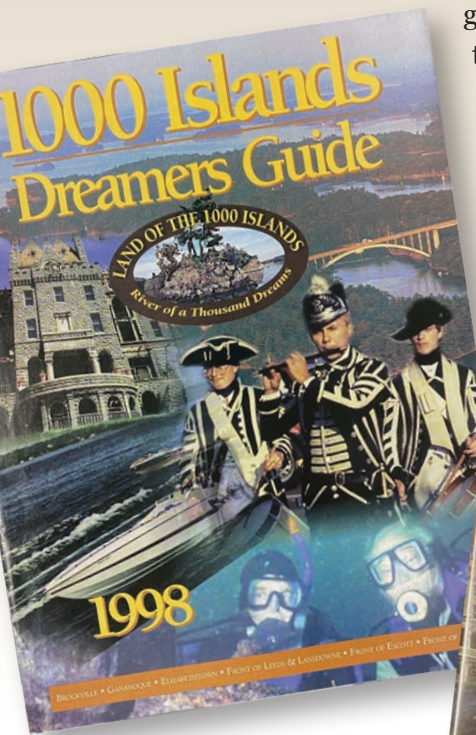


## South Leeds Economic Development Commission

To encourage more effective use of regional resources, we were excited to establish the South Leeds Economic Development Commission which operated as a coalition of municipalities working together on promotion and investment attraction efforts from 1995 to 2005. Information directories, advertising campaigns, highway signage, map creation, video production and several other initiatives were subsidized by the 1000 Islands CDC in support of the greater good. In many ways, the SLEDC helped to set the stage for even greater opportunities when the St. Lawrence Corridor Economic Development Commission was born several years later. Smaller communities need to work together whenever possible in order to compete on larger stages and this is a prime example showing that we are stronger together than we are apart.

**“The 1000 Islands CDC has a long history of forming powerful and effective partnerships across the region.”**

*Dave Paul,  
Economic Development Director,  
City of Brockville*



## Rural Leeds 2000 Economic Development Corporation

In the mid-1990's, municipalities in northern Leeds County partnered in the hopes of accomplishing more together than apart. The 1000 Islands CDC secured financial aid under federal CanAdapt and provincial Ministry of Agriculture funding programs designed to help rural areas adapt to changing economic times. With \$200,000 in grants and another \$100,000 invested by member municipalities (and the CDC), the Rural Leeds 2000 Economic Development Corporation had a sizable budget to work with. The main goal was to develop a shared identity and promote the region on a unified front in much the same way the South Leeds Economic Development Commission was doing. Information brochures, professional videos, shared labelling, detailed maps and paddling route identification were just a few of the projects this group successfully implemented. Not many years later, the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville would establish an economic development office to ensure permanent commitment to cooperation. We could not be prouder to have helped set the stage.

**“CanAdapt and Ministry of Agriculture funding were game changers and they were only possible thanks to the efforts of our CDC.”**

*Ian Johnston, Chairperson,  
Rural Leeds 2000*





In 2006, we were approached by a group known as the ‘Admirals of the 1000 Islands’ who wished to pay tribute to the namesake of our wonderful river by creating and erecting a 15-foot, 16,000-pound limestone statue of Saint Lawrence. We were thrilled to assist and we encourage everyone to visit this fitting monument the next time you are out on this particular saint’s river.



After successfully hosting the Ontario Senior Games, the City of Brockville decided it was time to bring on the Canada 55+ National Games of 2010. Well received in every way possible, the games attracted 2,000 participants and over 3,000 spectators. The economic impact was estimated to exceed \$3,400,000 for the entire region. Congratulations to all involved.



Village of Rockport revitalization efforts were launched in 2010 with support from funding partners, including the 1000 Islands CDC. Enhancements included photo murals, interpretive signage, memorial benches, bicycle racks, information kiosks and a host of other improvements. Enhancements on this front continue to this very day, most notably with the recent restoration of Rockport Customs House and surrounding property.



We were gratified to watch history come to life as a \$10,000 grant from the Eastern Ontario Development Program allowed the Township of Athens & Area Heritage Society to create several high-quality interpretive signs and murals depicting significant aspects of the region’s history. You can see the results for yourself as those signs still stand throughout the Athens area. They are fabulous!



In 2002, municipalities across the region were vying to welcome a new casino to their community. Fourteen years later, the successful municipalities (Gananoque and the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands) were making the case for it to stay. The 1000 Islands CDC invested heavily on both fronts and we are gratified that the new casino owners have committed to be here until at least 2035. Slots anyone?



The 2013-14 campaign to ‘Step Up in Seeley’s Bay’ saw sizable investments from the local community and from all levels of government, including the Government of Canada through the Eastern Ontario Development Program. The initial phase saw the rejuvenation of historic Haskin’s Park followed by a second phase where parkettes were installed, water quality initiatives pursued and community hall improvements made.



We have long invested in events that draw tens of thousands of people to the region, we are a community development corporation after all. With a solid base of more than 1,000 volunteers, the Leeds & Grenville area has proudly hosted successful international plowing matches on multiple occasions and we have gladly assisted along the way. Sowing seeds and growing dreams.

“Watch the field behind the plow turn to straight dark rows. Put another season’s promise in the ground.”

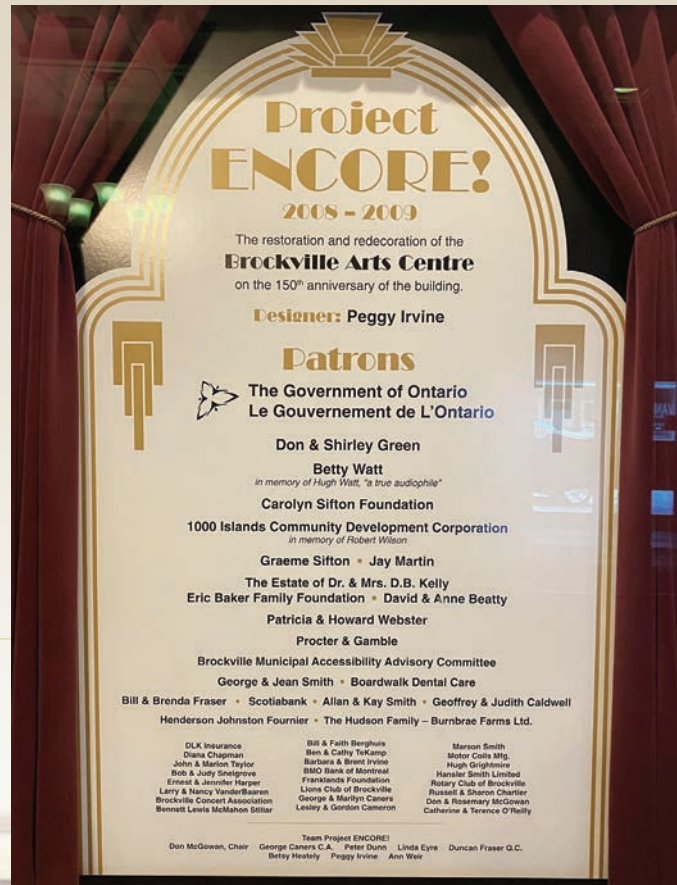
*Stan Rogers, Legendary Canadian Singer-Songwriter*



# Community Economic Development - Arts, Culture & Recreation

## Brockville Arts Centre

Our support for the Brockville Arts Centre has spanned decades, reaching hundreds of thousands of dollars. From façade improvements to interior upgrades and from youth internship staffing to ticket reservation software purchases, we have been proud to assist wherever and whenever possible. We were particularly gratified to support the \$2,000,000 “Project ENCORE!” campaign of 2008-09 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of this cherished building. Our corporation funded numerous aspects of the redevelopment effort including feasibility plans and engineering studies as well as direct renovation costs for the theatre and the stained glass (half-moon) centrepiece still standing stately in the lobby. We also used the occasion to honour one of our own directors, a staunch supporter of the arts and prominent local lawyer, Bob Wilson, who had recently passed away in a tragic accident. He would have been proud.



“We gave the grand old lady a brand-new gown on her 150th birthday!”

*Don McGowan, Project Encore Committee Member*

## Thousand Islands Playhouse

The Thousand Islands Playhouse welcomes over 40,000 visitors annually to this waterfront gem of a performing arts centre. The 1000 Islands CDC considers it both a privilege and a pleasure to have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to support performances, renovations, warehousing, staffing and countless other opportunities for this one-of-a-kind attraction. We are truly blessed to have such magical venues as the Brockville Arts Centre and the Thousand Islands Playhouse to call our own. Please don't take them for granted and please do yourself the great favour of enriching your lives by supporting the arts. All the world's a stage.



“The most charming theatre in Canada.”

*CBC Radio*





Community Access Program

In stark contrast to modern times, outside of major urban markets there was very limited access to the Internet as recently as twenty years ago. To combat these restrictions, Industry Canada offered the Community Access Project to help create public access sites across rural communities. With tremendous assistance from MP Joe Jordan, the 1000 Islands CDC partnered with others to secure \$1,000,000 to equip more than thirty-five community Internet access and training sites across Leeds & Grenville. For many, this was the only option available and it proved to be very popular with hundreds using the service daily for years on end.



“This shows how the private sector can work with government to capture the enabling power of the information highway. I am proud to have helped.”

MP Joe Jordan

A true community champion, MP Joe Jordan presents critical funding necessary to support a number of worthwhile initiatives, including the establishment of free Internet access sites at a time when very few existed.

### Free Community Internet Access

Thanks to financial support provided by the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario there are presently more than thirty-five community Internet access sites operating in Leeds & Grenville. Visit one today!

<b>1000 Islands Community Development Corporation</b> 4-6216 <b>Leeds Public Library</b> 4-2048 <b>Gustaf Township Public Library</b> 5-2449 <b>Brockville Public Library</b> 2-3936 <b>Leeds Rapids Public Library</b> 2-3936 <b>Country Roads Health Centre</b> 2-3302 <b>Leeds Public Library</b> 8-2991 <b>Leeds Rapids/Leeds Public Library</b> 7-5622 <b>Leeds Public Library</b> 5-5315 <b>Leeds Rapids/Kitley Municipal Office</b> 5-7480 <b>Leeds Employment and Education Centre</b> 8-2111 <b>Leeds Public Library</b> 9-3800	<b>Mallorytown Public Library</b> 923-2251 <b>New Dublin/Toledo/Lyn Public Libraries</b> 498-3338 <b>North Crosby/Newboro Public Library</b> 272-2041 <b>North Grenville District High School</b> 258-3481 <b>North Grenville Township Municipal Office</b> 258-7612 <b>Oxford Mills Public Library</b> 258-5040 <b>Portland Public Library</b> 272-2832 <b>Prescott Public Library</b> 925-4340 <b>Kemptville Public Library</b> 258-5577 <b>Kitley Public Library</b> 275-2093 <b>Lansdowne Public Library</b> 659-3885 <b>Lyndhurst Public Library</b> 928-2277	<b>St. Lawrence College Library</b> 345-0860 <b>St. Lawrence Lodge Public Libraries</b> 345-0255 <b>Seeley's Bay Public Library</b> 387-3909 <b>South Edwardsburg Public School</b> 925-4183 <b>South Elmsly Public Library</b> 283-0860 <b>South Gower Public Library</b> 258-4711 <b>Rideau Lakes Environment Information Centre</b> 272-3629 <b>Westport Public Library</b> 273-3223
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**Leeds & Grenville M.P. Joe Jordan and Brockville Public Library Director Margaret Williams show off state of the art wireless Internet stations at the Brockville Public Library.**

The Leeds & Grenville Community Access Program is made possible thanks to the generous support of the following organizations:

**GRENVILLE**  
Leeds & Grenville Community Development Corporation  
1-813-345-8216 toll free: 1-800-431-0015



Brockville Public Library

Even with the advent of the Internet, libraries remain critically important research and education facilities. Our corporation has always embraced the concept of lifelong learning, with libraries central to this notion. It was a major point of pride (and significant accomplishment) to help raise almost \$2,000,0000 for the Access Tomorrow campaign to expand the Brockville Public Library in 1995. Visit your local library today and find out for yourself just how fabulous they really are. Life is for learning.

BROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY EXPANSION CONSTRUCTED 1995 - 1996		
CITY COUNCIL 1991 - 1994	BROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS 1994 - 1997	ACCESS TOMORROW FUND RAISING COMMITTEE
MAYOR J. DORAN G. ABRAMS D. CAMPBELL D. CHEVRIER J. EARLE L. EYRE R. HUSKINSON R. MCCLURE T. PHILLIPS C. PUDDICOMBE	MAYOR J. DORAN D. CAMPBELL D. CHEVRIER J. EARLE L. EYRE R. HUSKINSON R. JOHNSON L. JOURNAL V. KINES B. TEKAMP	R. SANDS, CHAIR R. WILSON, FAST CHAIR R. DANCE L. EYRE L. KOWLESSAR J. MIDDLETON C. QUICE S. ROGERS M. WICKLUM M. WILLIAMS, C.E.O.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR M. SULLIVAN & SONS LIMITED	CONSULTING ENGINEERS EASTERN ENGINEERING GROUP INC.	CITY ENGINEER J.M. MCINTOSH, P.ENG.
	ARCHITECT PETER WILLIAMS ARCHITECT INC.	MUNICIPAL ENGINEER C. COSGROVE, P.ENG.
	LIBRARY CONSULTANT BECKMAN ASSOCIATES LIBRARY CONSULTANTS INC.	

“You live, you learn.”

Alanis Morissette, Legendary Canadian Singer-Songwriter





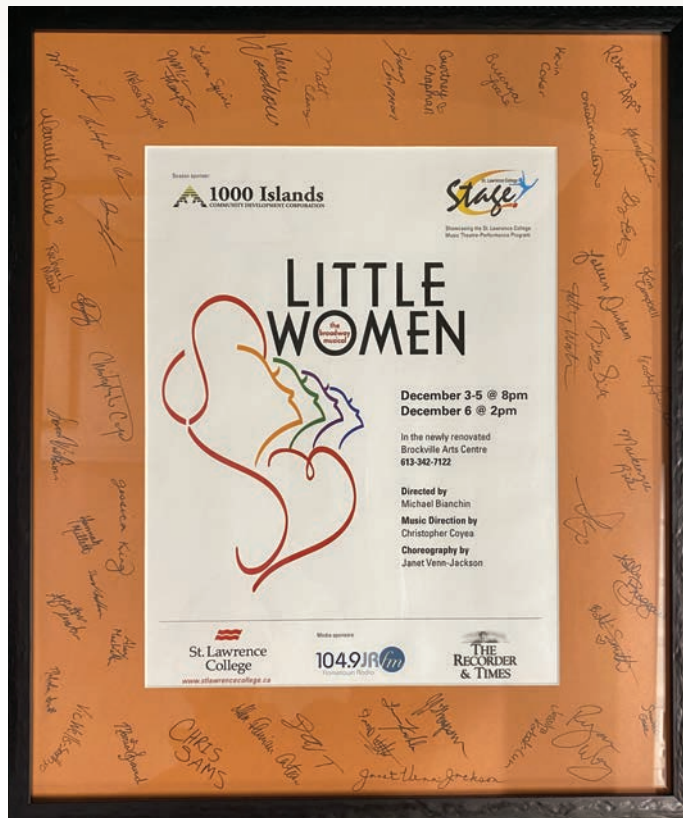
## St. Lawrence College Music Theatre Program

World-class theatre performed in a fabulous local venue by the best talent of a new generation. There has always been much to love about the St. Lawrence College Music Theatre Program and it's no surprise that countless alumni have graduated to successful careers in the industry. Exceptional productions with stellar performances continue to solidify the reputation of SLC as a top choice for an education in this field. The economic benefits of thousands of people flocking to see these shows provides ample motivation for our six-figure investment, but there is also the fundamental truth that the arts represent the very soul of a community. We thank SLC Music Theatre for nourishing us all. Bravo!



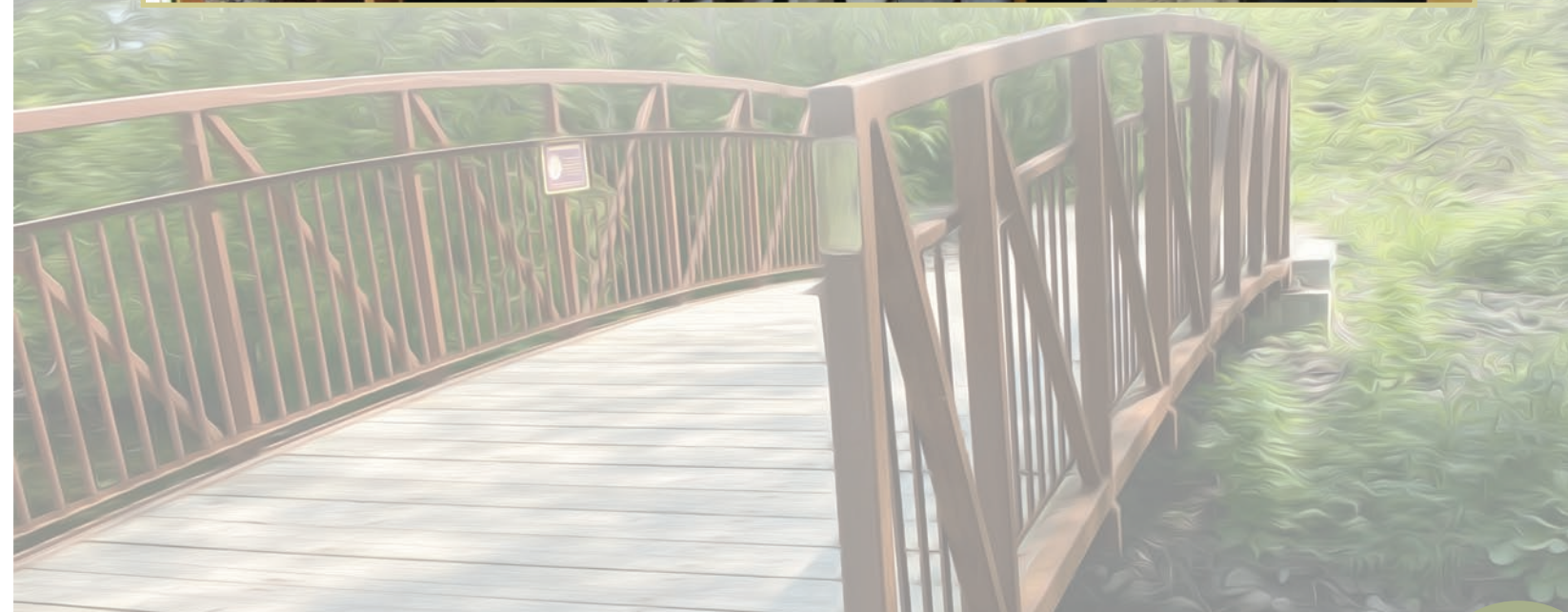
“We are so very grateful to the 1000 Islands CDC for being such a generous Angel in our Audience.”

*Michael Bianchin,  
SLC Music Theatre Coordinator*



## Brock Trails

There has been much work done by volunteers and City of Brockville officials to create, expand and enhance a series of trails connecting the City of Brockville from north to south and from east to west. These “Brock Trails” have become a very popular attraction for locals and visitors alike as they offer a quiet enjoyable avenue for walking, hiking, running and cycling throughout the city. The trails continue to be a significant asset that regularly receives high praise as a sophisticated network encouraging a more active lifestyle for all. We were humbled to assist this effort in the name of our friend and former director, Mr. Russell Chartier, who was an advocate and volunteer for this project prior to his passing.





# Mallory Coach House

Intense fundraising followed by careful restoration allowed the 170-year-old Mallory Coach House to reopen its doors in 2008. This was a significant achievement for a small town and a highlight for the entire community. The 1000 Islands CDC contributed over \$50,000 towards multiple aspects of the project including heating, electrical, restoration and pavilion construction. The facility is now a hub for the area, hosting numerous events and exhibits throughout the year. We were honoured to support an initiative so passionately championed by our director, Mr. Gene Martin, who sadly left us before his dream could be finalized, but it was heartwarming to see the community rally to complete the project in his memory.



“If not for 1000 Islands CDC, we would never have gotten off the ground.”

Bob Morrison, Town Councillor and Heritage Committee Member



# Rockport Recreation Centre & Pavilion

Eastern Ontario is dotted with magnificent small towns, picturesque villages and charming hamlets that are often tied together by central meeting locations such as community halls and recreation centres. The Rockport Recreation Hall is one such place and we were pleased to invest \$50,000 to help restore this historic building so that future generations might continue to build civic pride through shared meals, open discussions, craft exhibits, fundraising events and various other avenues encouraging healthy social discourse. We were also happy to assist with costs associated with the construction of a new pavilion allowing large outdoor gatherings to take place in a sheltered space. Whether by circumstance or by choice, residents of smaller communities fully appreciate that while marching to our future, we must also stand together with respect and reverence for our past.

“Through thick and thin, around and back again, we held our own ... because we walked as one.”

Heather Rankin, Legendary Canadian Singer-Songwriter







The 1000 Islands CDC has always placed a premium on education and lifelong learning. It's why we were eager to support our friends at the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands as they endeavored to archive a collection of unique artifacts and materials to tell the story of the region's history. There are many valuable lessons to be learned from our past and we would be wise to try and live by them.

The 2007 opening of the Brockville Civitan Skateboard Park marked the culmination of several years and countless hours of work by local volunteers and city officials. Prior to its development, area youth had few options available to exercise their desire to defy gravity or perform the latest tricks on their boards. Providing activities for youth and encouraging a healthy lifestyle made this a 'gnarly' project for us to support.

*"In the fullness of time,  
a garden to nurture  
and protect."*

*Neil Peart, Legendary  
Canadian Musician-Songwriter*



Protection and enhancement of our natural and cultural heritage have long been hallmarks of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve. Our corporation has always believed that sustainable development is the only responsible path forward and our decisions have been guided accordingly. With more than \$100,000 of support provided, we commend this group for its commitment to ensuring a better world for us all.



A very generous gift from the estate of former arts graduate, Marianne van Silfhout, led to the establishment of a new arts gallery for the Brockville campus of St. Lawrence College. This half million-dollar jewel showcases talented artists from the community as well as those studying in the Fine Arts program. Our modest contributions helped assist with fundraising efforts.



It was a profound privilege to stand with official representatives of Branch 484 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Mallorytown as they unveiled major renovations in October of 2006. The Captain George MacDonald Memorial Wall remains incredibly impressive to this very day. We have proudly supported all of our Legion branches and we salute veterans everywhere.



Older facilities have an undeniable charm, but they require considerable resources to maintain and can easily fall into disrepair. The 1000 Islands CDC has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in support of millions of dollars in renovations to several of these buildings throughout the area. Like others, recreation facilities also need attention from time to time and we are always happy to lend a hand whenever available resources permit. For example, over \$100,000 was granted to the Gananoque Curling Club and the Brockville Country Club to help ensure many more years of recreational enjoyment for young and old alike.



# Community Economic Development - Education, Training & Youth Opportunities

Important partnerships have allowed the 1000 Islands CDC to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in training opportunities for both the future and the current workforce. Courses delivered by multiple public and private institutions have better equipped hundreds of students, employees and job seekers for the road ahead.

## Education & Training

An educated population is the greatest resource any country can have. It also strikes to the very heart of successful and sustainable economic development. This 35th Anniversary retrospective is littered with stories emphasizing the value of constant learning and, as such, we have invested heavily to support all kinds of educational opportunities, whether it be an employee training on the latest piece of sophisticated equipment, a student learning foundational lessons in the classroom or an entrepreneur brushing up on the skills required to run a small business. Trusted relationships with local educators have allowed the 1000 Islands CDC to foster the development of millions of dollars in training opportunities. Courses delivered by both public and private institutions have better equipped hundreds of students, employees and job seekers for the road ahead.



“Hundreds of jobs have been impacted by CDC support of courses offered at SLC. Our partnership has served the community very well indeed.”

*Dave Ashton, Training Consultant, St. Lawrence College*



“Thanks to your support, many of our students are now certified in their desired fields. You have helped them pursue their dreams.”

*Kim Lawless, Teacher, TR Leger School*

## Youth Opportunities

The best way to ensure future prosperity is to aggressively invest in our youth, so that's what we've done. Young professional networks, youth business planning competitions, summer job opportunity programs and dozens of youth internships have all been financed by the 1000 Islands CDC. Imagine our joy as we watch so many of these young people still thriving in our community, often in leadership roles and, in some cases, still employed by the organizations they originally trained with or interned for. It's impossible, biologically speaking, for corporations to have children, but sometimes these do feel like our own.



Education, Training & Youth Opportunities

56

Non-Profits Assisted

82

Youth Interns Hired

75

Years Of Experience Gained

\$2,000,000

Invested

“Armed with will and determination, and grace, too.”

*Gord Downie, Legendary Canadian Singer-Songwriter*



# Community Economic Development - Infrastructure Improvements

## Telcommunications

Internet accessibility is now often taken for granted, but it wasn't all that long ago when such was not the case. As highlighted earlier under our support for the Community Access Project, there was very limited Internet access outside of major metropolitan areas as recently as twenty years ago. That's what made the 2003-04 building of a \$6,500,000 wireless highspeed network by RipNET Ltd. so very appealing. It was especially exciting to be the lead applicant in securing complimentary financial support in the amount of \$2,800,000 from the Province of Ontario. Our enduring partnership with RipNET was extremely successful as the wireless network was ultimately built on time and on budget, laying the foundation for even bigger things to come. We have since been involved in other telecommunications projects, most recently as supporters of a regional cell gap analysis study, the Eastern Ontario Regional Network and several local Internet service providers. However, our biggest foray into the field remains the work done with the brilliant minds at RipNET.



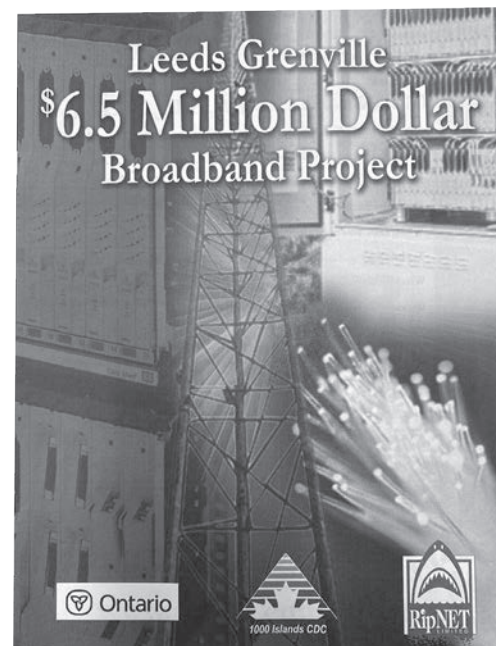
“This will provide our area with a powerful tool. This is the big equalizer between large and rural centres.”

*MPP Bob Runciman*

“Attracting new businesses will become much easier when they know employees and management can live in the area and still stay connected to the office.”

*Kingsley Grant, Co-owner, RipNET Ltd.*

The 1000 Islands CDC was the agency responsible for financial management of the first major broadband rollout across the area. This \$6,500,000 effort was initiated by RipNET Ltd. in partnership with Eastern Independent Telecom and the Province of Ontario.



## Health Services

Access to healthcare is a foundational cornerstone of any practical economic development strategy, but it also tends to be prohibitively expensive and it falls largely under provincial jurisdiction. For a smaller corporation like ours, it requires a more targeted approach to support the bigger picture. Providing \$60,000 to convert a recreational vehicle into a mobile health clinic made a large difference to those who had traditionally seen their access limited. Offering almost \$30,000 to assist palliative care fundraising efforts helped local organizers raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for an important cause. Investing \$20,000 to encourage unique forms of music therapy was a gift from the heart that went straight to the hearts of ailing patients. Contributing tens of thousands of dollars to the expansion of several regional medical centres brought services to where people live and reduced stress on our hospital. Subsidizing staff costs in the Brockville General Hospital Foundations Department gave additional assistance to those raising tens of millions of dollars for a much-needed hospital expansion. It all adds up to strategic thinking in support of a critically important sector for our community. First do no harm.





## Transportation

Access to reliable transportation arteries and distribution networks is vitally important to the growth of any region. Without them, the economy would simply grind to a halt. Through the years, we have engaged in a number of transportation related projects, but our role in two of these initiatives tends to stand out the most.

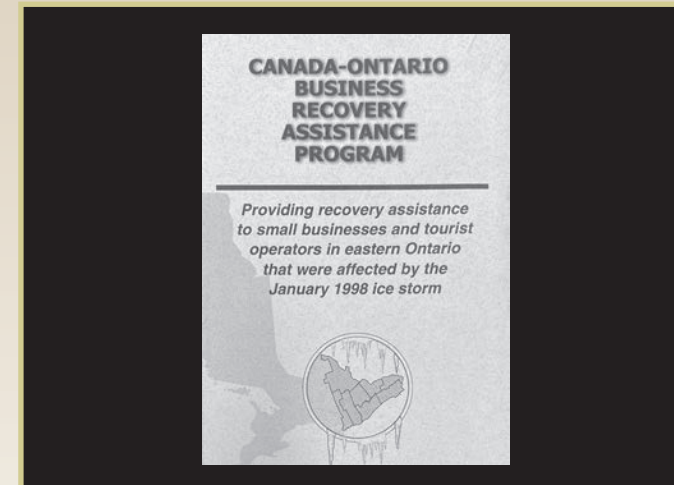


We were pleased to follow the leadership of our close friends at Grenville CFDC and provide \$100,000 in support of Port of Johnstown automation and implementation of robotics technology upgrades. This has since facilitated the introduction of innovative grain loading processes resulting in productivity enhancements increasing competitiveness, generating sales growth, maintaining employment levels and ensuring continued access to international markets for Eastern Ontario agriculture producers. This has been a massive win for the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville as well as for the entire surrounding area.

Before the runway at the Brockville - 1000 Islands Regional Airport was extended to 4500 feet, there was no possibility for moderate sized aircraft to land locally. At the time, this was seen as a significant deterrent for several larger multinational companies who wished to travel by air to visit branch plants and subsidiaries in the Brockville area. We were pleased to provide \$75,000 towards this \$1,000,000 project and we extend great appreciation to George Tackaberry for his exceptional commitment and financial generosity to see the effort through to completion. Prepare for landing.



## Community Services



Through the Canada-Ontario Business Recovery Assistance Program, we were pleased to provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in relief to small businesses impacted by the January 1998 ice storm. This support was welcomed then just as our Regional Relief and Recovery Fund was welcomed during the recent pandemic. We are privileged to serve in times of need.



Community economic development can also include support for services not traditionally viewed as drivers of the economy, but still extremely important. It's not often that our corporation is asked to, or even able to, assist outside of our immediate realm, but it is nice to lend a helping hand, or paw, whenever possible. We cannot live for ourselves alone.

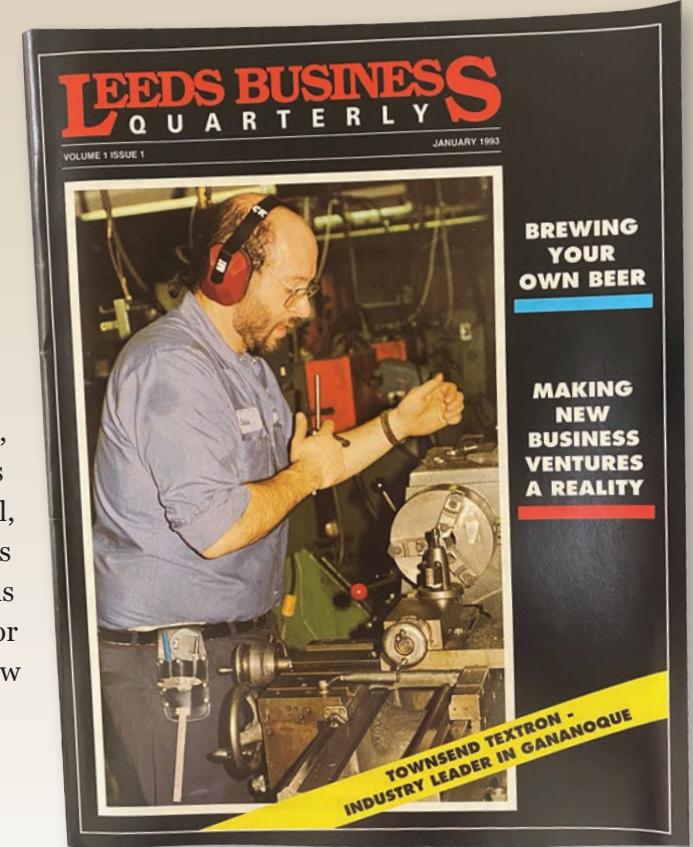
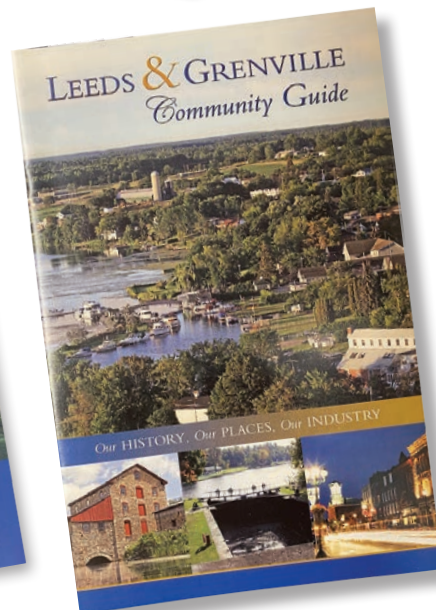
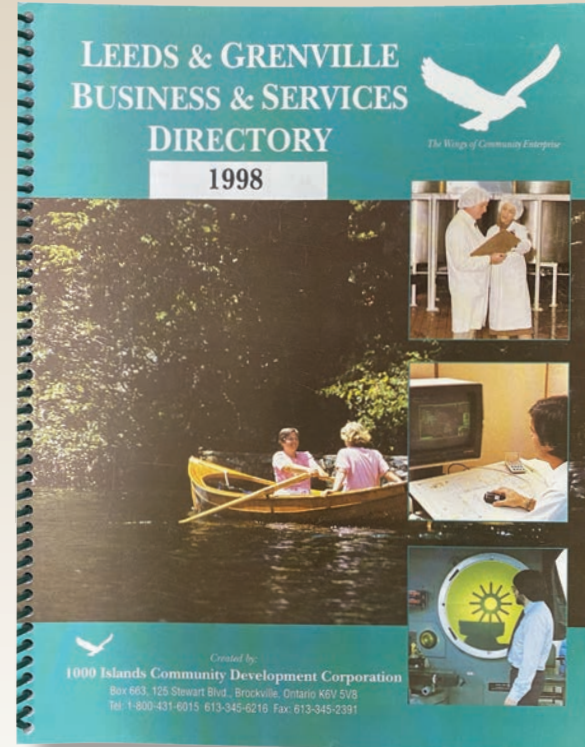


In a city of more than 20,000 people, from time to time there will be those who require a little help from their community. Loaves & Fishes (above left) and the Brockville Food Bank (above right) are examples of two agencies populated with local heroes who lend daily assistance to those in need. Investing in a new kitchen for Loaves & Fishes and cold storage facilities for the Brockville Food Bank was an appropriate way for our corporation to extend heartfelt appreciation for the vital services these two exceptional facilities continue to provide. It's hard to imagine where we would be without them.



# Community Economic Development – Information Gathering & Sharing

Things have become sophisticated in the digital age, but there was a time not so long ago when information sharing was done in a much more traditional and rudimentary way. Written mail-in surveys, available program inventories, investment attraction kit folders, community guides, business directories, community profiles and all sorts of paper-based publications were once the only option available. Pictured are just a few of the projects we either spearheaded or financed (or both) to ensure that our message was being received by as many people as possible. It was a much different approach than pushing a button or reading from a screen but it could sometimes be equally as effective. How times have changed.



Thirty years ago, regular communication within and about the business community was relatively limited. A few publications would put out annual entrepreneur celebrations or industrial profiles and that would be it for the rest of the year. To fill the gap, the 1000 Islands CDC contracted with a local publisher, The Sunday Advantage, to produce a news magazine that would focus solely on the information needs of those in the world of business. As suggested by the name, it was published every three months and featured stories on a wide variety of business interest topics. It was useful, timely and informative, but eventually the publication was replaced by traditional media focusing more attention on this sector. We are very proud to have offered an early avenue for businesses to share their success stories at a time when few others existed.



# Awards, Recognition & Gratitude



The 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation has long been valued throughout the region. We have always tried to put community first and we constantly strive for excellence in the work we do. This effort has often been recognized by various business, community and governing organizations who periodically honour those who have made a difference.



Over the past several decades, we have received dozens of awards for a variety of initiatives and programs. We have also been granted the highest possible tributes from several of our esteemed contemporaries. Among others, special acknowledgements have been bestowed upon us in the form of the President's Award of Excellence from the Brockville & District Chamber of Commerce which is presented periodically to organizations and individuals who have made significant contributions to the community; the St. Lawrence

Circle Award given to select few organizations who have provided exceptional support to St. Lawrence College and its students; the Canada 150 Volunteer Medal for those who have had a positive impact through volunteerism; and the Kinsmen & Kinette Community Appreciation Award for those who place service above self.

We are extremely grateful for all of the accolades sent our way and we humbly consider them worthy testaments to the collaborative efforts of many.



## Awards, Recognition & Gratitude





# Directors & Staff

The 1000 Islands CDC is a community based, non-profit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and staffed by a small team of dedicated professionals. Like most non-profits, support of the community is necessary for the organization to flourish. We express immense gratitude to all who have contributed their time and expertise to help build a highly successful and extremely valuable asset capable of supporting our region for years to come.



**Mr. David Boyd**

Mr. David Boyd, Director, owns a sporting goods wholesale company buying and selling sporting goods in Canada, USA, South America and Europe. Among his many community contributions, he is particularly proud to coach rowing to the young people of our area. He also presently sits as director and treasurer for the Brockville Rowing Club.



**Mr. Lawrence Fielding**

Mr. Lawrence Fielding, Past Chairperson, is an independent financial advisor with several years experience in the banking industry. He is a past director with St. Vincent DePaul Hospital and is actively involved with many local charitable initiatives. He was chair of the 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation for several years.



**Mr. David Hain**

Mr. David Hain, Director, is a retired solicitor who offered services in Brockville for almost forty years. He has continued to remain active in the community with multiple volunteer commitments, particularly in the fields of education and music.



**Ms. Trish McNamara**

Ms. Trish McNamara, Director, is Program Manager with Kingston Employment Youth Services (KEYS) serving Gananoque and the northern Leeds area. She is past president of the 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce and remains active with multiple community development and volunteer associations throughout the region.



**Mr. Ron Merkley**

Mr. Ron Merkley, Chairperson, is the owner/operator of a real estate appraisal and sales operation. He is also past president of the Ontario Real Estate Board. He is actively involved in a number of business endeavors and brings a wealth of experience to the table. He has chaired the 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation since 2017.

## Directors & Staff



**Ms. Wendy Merkley**

Ms. Wendy Merkley, Vice-Chairperson, owns and operates a successful marina and general store in the community of Rockport. She is a former councillor for the Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands and volunteers with a number of community organizations. She recently played an integral role in raising hundreds of thousands of dollars to restore the Rockport Customs House building and property.



**Mr. Bob Runciman**

Mr. Bob Runciman, Director, is former leader of the official opposition in the Ontario Legislature, where he served for 29 years. He was subsequently appointed to the Senate of Canada and, for almost 6 years, chaired the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee. He currently chairs the St. Lawrence Parks Commission and volunteers in support of several worthy causes.



**Ms. Candace Fox**

Ms. Candace Fox, Business Loans Officer, is the staff member most responsible for review, recommendation, document preparation and file management for all 1000 Islands CDC loan clients. She also offers business start-up and counselling services to a large base of customers and has an extensive banking background. She is actively involved with several community groups and professional associations and has been employed by the 1000 Islands CDC since 2023.



**Ms. Janice Lawrence**

Ms. Janice Lawrence, Office Administrator, is the staff member most responsible for office administration of the 1000 Islands CDC. She assists with monitoring corporate financial records, maintaining client files, organizing meetings, preparing reports and working with clients on a daily basis. She joined the 1000 Islands CDC in 2003.



**Mr. Tom Russell**

Mr. Tom Russell, Executive Director, is the staff member most responsible for daily operation of the 1000 Islands CDC. His duties include office administration, financial control/management, budgeting, human resources, program management, loan fund oversight, public relations, board liaison, program reporting and funding proposal preparation. He participates with numerous boards and committees throughout the region and has been employed by the 1000 Islands CDC since 1990.



# Funding Recipients

## (Not Including Loan Clients)

The following is a list of businesses and organizations that have received grants from the 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation through a variety of funding programs. Please note that this list does not include the hundreds of clients who have received loans from our corporation. We take the greatest care possible to ensure strict confidentiality and we only identify those who have agreed to be recognized.

1000 Islands Addiction Rehab  
1000 Islands Electronics Inc.  
1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce  
1000 Islands Helping Hands  
1000 Islands Luxury Tours  
1000 Islands Workforce Board  
3M Canada  
995423 Ontario Inc.  
A Perfect Place for Gifts  
A2A  
Abbott Laboratories  
Ace Hardware  
Admirals of St. Lawrence  
Advonex  
Air Pure Filters  
AireSun Global  
Alcan  
Alexander McMillian Real Estate  
All You Need Music  
Ally Business Services  
Alzheimer’s Society  
Apple Ridge Farms  
Applications 4U  
Aquatarium  
Around The House  
Arrowsmith Leatherworks  
Arthur Child Heritage Museum  
Artouch Gallery  
Athens Chamber of Commerce  
Athens District Medical Center  
Athens Lions Club  
Athens Public Library  
Athlone Inn  
Audrey’s Hair Design  
Axens Canada  
Beattie Dodge Chrysler  
Beattie Film  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Big River Tech  
BizXcel Inc.  
Blitz  
Brennan Marine  
Bridge Island Motel  
Brockberry Café  
Brockville & District Hospital Foundation

Brockville Arts Centre  
Brockville Business Centre  
Brockville Chamber of Commerce  
Brockville Club  
Brockville Community Foundation  
Brockville Computer Tech Centre  
Brockville Country Club  
Brockville DBIA  
Brockville Farmers Market  
Brockville Fire Protection  
Brockville Food Bank  
Brockville General Hospital  
Brockville Hydroplane Boat Races  
Brockville Immigration  
Brockville Info/Tourism Radio  
Brockville Lions Club  
Brockville Mental Health  
Brockville Museum  
Brockville Police Services  
Brockville Public Library  
Brockville Rowing Club  
Brockville Safe Communities  
Brockville Skateboard Park  
Brockville Therapeutic Massage  
Brockville Tourism  
Brockville Truck Centre  
Brockville Tunnel Restoration Committee  
Brockville Woodworking  
Brown’s Hospitality Corporation  
Bud’s On The Bay  
Buell Street Bistro  
Bulldog Coatings  
Burnbrae Farms  
Caiger’s  
Calamity Jane’s  
Camalor  
Canada 55+ Games  
Canada Waters Vacations  
Canadian Tire Gananoque  
Canarm  
Capricorn Hotel  
Career Services Group  
Cedar Valley Golf & Country Club  
Charity Marketing Group Inc.  
Charlie’s TV Furniture & Appliances  
Chromatographic Specialties

City of Brockville  
Clark College  
Collett Surveying  
Collins Aikman Automotive  
Compu-Silv Computers  
Connect Ontario  
Court House Lodge  
Covidien  
CPHC  
CRCA  
Creative Nest  
Crooked Creek Golf Course  
CSE Consulting  
DADX Dance Academy  
Dale’s Detailing  
Danielle Murphy Studio’s  
Dannis Management  
Dave Henry  
DBS Express  
DDDG Engineering  
Don Mills Flowers  
Donevan’s Hardware  
Doors Open Brockville  
Doors Open Gananoque  
Douglas Barwick  
Downtown Brockville  
Dr. Tim Ford  
Dream Weaver  
Dreams In Motion  
Eagle Point Ranch Winery  
EASTCAT  
Eastern Independent Telecom  
Eastern Ontario Events Centre  
Eastern Ontario Model Forest  
Eastern Ontario Warden’s Caucus  
Ed Huck Marine  
El Cima Studio  
Employment & Education Centre  
Encore Program  
Environmental Connections  
Eternal Care Cremation  
Farely Security  
Farmer’s Daughter  
FastOil  
Fedorki Performance Engines  
Festival of the Islands

Four-O-One Electric  
Freedom Mobility Plus  
Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve  
Frontline Systems  
Fulford Academy  
Fulford Place Museum  
Gananoque BIA  
Gananoque Canadian Tire  
Gananoque Canoe Club  
Gananoque Curling Club  
Gananoque Heritage  
Gananoque Home Hardware  
Gananoque Humane Society  
Gananoque Public Library  
Gananoque Rotary Club  
Gananoque Secondary School  
Gananoque Shoe Outlet  
Gananoque Skateboard Park  
Ganroc Motel  
Gauthier Opticians  
Genev Beauty Salon  
Giftek  
Girls Inc.  
Golden Age Comics and Collectibles  
Golden Apple Restaurant  
Goodyer Catering  
Gord Brown Memorial Rink  
Gord Eamer Enterprises  
Gravel Doctor  
Green Acre Golf Course  
Green Gecko  
Grounds Master Nutrite  
Gun Boat Festival  
Habitat for Humanity  
Hansler Smith  
Happy Life Farms  
Haskin’s Point Revitalization  
Henderson Printing  
Hendrix Restaurant Supplies  
Heritage Brockville  
Heritage Cycle Works  
Heritage River Designation  
Hewitt Brockville  
Hidden Valley Campground  
Hill Island Lodge  
Historic 1000 Islands Village Foundation

List of Funding Recipients			
Home Comfort Services Homeward Bound Hot Roast HP Powersports Marine Image Advantage Independent Innkeepers Gananoque INEAS International Plowing Match Isaac’s Coffee and Tea Room Isis Ivy Lea KOA Jack Attack Fitness Jackson Motors & Marine James Ross Jeff Lambert JEG Carpentry Jobmatics K. Cristenson Studio KC Spencer Kemptville College KEYS Kinda Electronics Kirkland’s Truck Repair Kollage Landon’s Bay Garden’s Lansdowne Public Library Laurence Guild Lawnscape LeBoat Ledgcroft Farms Leeds & Grenville Interval House Leeds & Grenville Small Business Enterprise Centre Leeds & Grenville Volunteer Bureau Leeds Business Quarterly Legacy Homes Limestone & Ivy Liqui-Met LMS Signs & Graphics Loaves & Fishes Local Flavours Local Training Advisory Board Locke Truss Ludlow Technical Products Lyndhurst Convenience Store Lyndhurst Grocery Lyndhurst Turkey Fair Lynx Visual Mac Johnson Conservation Area MacNeil’s Landing Made By Bees Magnetic Jewelry Mahle Block Engines Mallory Coach House Mallorytown Legion Mama’s Music Maple Leaf Environmental Maple Syrup Producers	Marie and June de Viller’s Maritime Discovery Centre Matt’s Auto Services Mazurek Financial MCG Bookkeeping Michael Bishop MINGA Arts Group MJS Biolynx MK II Outdoor Supplies Mobile Automedics Moulton Tree Service Multi-Laser Music Access Canada My High-Speed Networks Nature’s Tonic New Leaf Wellness Newterra Nickel Cup Hydroplane Races Northern Cables Northern Quality Manufacturing O’Grady Power Tech Ofix Furniture Warehouse Old English Pub Ontario Senior Winter Games Open Door Development Operation Harvest Sharing Ottawa Tasting Tours Otter’s Den Outokumpu Outsource 2 Brockville Palko Jewellery Design Palliative Care Pensa Technology Phillason PK Enterprises Plowing Match Podium Sports Popkie Lawn Care Port of Johnstown Powers Consulting Proctor & Gamble Project Encore Prop Shop Pryor Plumbing Purple House Café Quality Inn Gananoque Rapid Valley Restaurant RD Athletics Reaching Vine’s Hop Farm Red Carpet Landscapes Red Dog Repair Regional Airport Regional Tourism Workshop Reid’s Contracting Reticle Enterprises Revision Painting Rideau Masonic Lodge RipNet	River Rat Riders Riverfest RiverQuest Riverstone Surfaces RJ Deir & Son’s Rob Rae Rockport Barn Events Rockport Boat Line Rockport Customs House Rockport Development Group Rockport Dive Centre Rockport Lighthouse Rockport Recreational Hall Rotary Club of Brockville Royal Canadian Legion Mallorytown Royal Ottawa Royal Theatre RTO 9 Rural Leeds 2000 Rynestone Magic Sam’s Brass Racks Sand’s Medical SEAM Enterprises Seaway Hardware Seeley’s Bay Masonic Lodge Seeley’s Bay Revitalization Selkirk Sersa Total Track Shell Canada Products Sherwood Park Manor Shorewood Packaging Skywood Ropes Course Sleepy Hollow B&B Snap’d 1000 Islands Soaring Eagle Festival Solutions for Elder Care Somerset Woodworks Somerville Frozen Foods South Leeds Economic Development Commission Spaces Storage SS Fiberglass St. John’s Ambulance St. Lawrence Artificial Reef Association St. Lawrence College St. Lawrence District Medical Centre St. Lawrence Marketing Partnership St. Lawrence Parks Commission St. Lawrence Sports Productions St. Lawrence War of 1812 Festival Stairpro Stella Boutique Sunny Acres Sunshine Bean Wellness Sunshine Photography Tallman Truck Centre Tech Tutors Telnet Networks	Textron Fastening Systems Thomson Fasteners Thousand Islands Accommodations Partnership Thousand Islands Boat Museum Thousand Islands Brewery Thousand Islands Chalk Art Festival Thousand Islands Foundation for the Performing Arts Thousand Islands Playhouse Thousand Islands Ribfest Thousand Islands Writer’s Festival Town of Gananoque Town of Smiths Falls Township Elizabethtown-Kitley Township of Athens Township of Front of Yonge Township of Leeds & 1000 Islands TR Leger School Tranquility Animal Care Triangle Cross Country Ski Club Tribeify Trillium Hall School Trillium Health Care Trinity House Truespeed Internet T-Zone United Counties of Leeds & Grenville United Way of Leeds & Grenville Upper Canada Family Health Team Victim Services Skywood Ropes Course Sleepy Hollow B&B Snap’d 1000 Islands Soaring Eagle Festival Solutions for Elder Care Somerset Woodworks Somerville Frozen Foods South Leeds Economic Development Commission Spaces Storage SS Fiberglass St. John’s Ambulance St. Lawrence Artificial Reef Association St. Lawrence College St. Lawrence District Medical Centre St. Lawrence Marketing Partnership St. Lawrence Parks Commission St. Lawrence Sports Productions St. Lawrence War of 1812 Festival Stairpro Stella Boutique Sunny Acres Sunshine Bean Wellness Sunshine Photography Tallman Truck Centre Tech Tutors Telnet Networks





# 1000 Islands

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