



## **Media Release**

### **The Guelph Community Foundation Announces 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dine & Dance Gala: The not-to-be-missed event of the season!**

June 11, 2015 – For Immediate Release

The Guelph Community Foundation is marking its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. To celebrate, The Foundation is throwing a Dine & Dance gala, presented by Bird Elinesky Schuett Wealth Management, that will be both unique and intriguing. The black & white event, scheduled for Saturday October 3, 2015, promises to be a night to remember. "Our guests are in for an evening full of diverse excitement," reveals Dominique O'Rourke, Chair of The Guelph Community Foundation and Co-Chair of The Foundation's gala planning committee. The event organizers are in full swing and have created an enchanted evening that begins within the Old Quebec Street Shoppes. "We are transforming the inside of Old Quebec Street for the cocktail party and post-dinner portion of the evening," says O'Rourke. Guests will stroll to pre-selected gala-appointed restaurants to enjoy their chef-inspired dinner before returning to Old Quebec Street for the grand finale.

"We have put together a unique evening that supports local restaurants and promises to keep our guests entertained right to the end," says Kevin McKitrick, Guelph entrepreneur, event planner and member of the Foundation's gala planning committee. The gala has appointed a select group of restaurants to participate, including Baker Street Station, Atmosphere, Bite Catering at The River Run Centre, Buon Gusto, The Joint, and Ox Restaurant. Guests select their restaurant choice at time of ticket purchase. Each restaurant will be serving similar menu options, with their own creative spin on how it is presented. After dinner, guests return to Old Quebec Street for a live and silent auction and elimination draw, sponsored by Knar Jewellery. "The Foundation's Dine & Dance gala is sure to surprise and delight," says McKitrick.

Music will be an integral part of the Dine & Dance gala, with a live trio playing jazz at the cocktail reception, and performances by the Juno-nominated band "God Made Me Funky". The 8-piece band is full of first class professional musicians which has earned them the reputation as one of the most in-demand bands on Toronto's private events scene. "Adding God Made Me Funky to the ticket has been an exciting development for us," says O'Rourke. The band performs hits from the '70s, '80s and beyond. "There is something for everyone in their repertoire," says O'Rourke.

Ken Hammill, founding member of The Guelph Community Foundation is nostalgic about the event. "We are celebrating our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Foundation this year," says Hammill. "Fifteen years ago, a small group of us in the community had a vision to band together and invest into the community in a way that keeps giving every year forever. To date, we have given more than \$3 million in grants to over 800 local organizations. It is rewarding to see how we continue to grow and make a difference in our community." Money raised at the Dine & Dance gala will be invested into The Foundation's Community Fund and dispersed throughout the Guelph community.

Local businesses have partnered with The Guelph Community Foundation to sponsor the upcoming gala, and show their support. “We couldn’t do this kind of event without local business support,” says O’Rourke. The Dine & Dance presenting sponsor is Bird Elinesky Schuett RBC Wealth Management, with other top sponsors including The Co-operators, The Mactaggart Team at Richardson GMP, Syngenta, The Guelph Tribune, Palmer Audio, The Guelph Mercury, Guelph Now!, BDO, Intrigue Media, Snapd, Knar Jewellery, Old Quebec Street Shoppes, Sleeman Brewery, Royal Rentals & Party Centre, Fleuristic Garden & Flower Studio, Pino’s Salon & Spa, and Dr. Dana Coman Family Dentistry.

Sponsor opportunities are still available for this event, and Silent Auction donations continue to be welcome.

Tickets are open to the public and everyone in the community is invited. Tickets are \$150 each and include an entire night of dazzling entertainment, including a cocktail party, dinner, live & silent auction, elimination draw and live music performances throughout the evening. For more information and ticket sales visit [www.gcfgala.com](http://www.gcfgala.com)

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