

# YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

*"We are so grateful Scott's family chose this way to honour the memory of this extraordinary man."*

~ Martin Ritsma, Principal, Stratford Northwestern Secondary School



Jean and Russ Diamond and Tracey Diamond established a legacy fund in son and husband Scott's name, providing an annual scholarship to a graduating student from Stratford Northwestern Secondary School. "He was such a special man," says Tracey, "we couldn't let his memory die."

## Scott Diamond: A Man Who Loved Life and Everything In It

Scott Diamond was a big-hearted man who loved life and everything in it. "Oh, Scott knew everyone," says his mother, Jean Diamond. "No matter where he went, there were smiles and hugs all around."

It was a shock to everyone when Scott fell ill in late 2012, eventually succumbing to a fast-moving bowel cancer three months later. It seemed impossible a heart so big could ever stop beating.

Scott's family decided they wanted to honour his memory with a scholarship legacy. "He was such a special man," says his wife Tracey, "we couldn't let his memory die."

### A caring mentor to many

Scott travelled in many circles, volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters Stratford, Stratford Community Living and more. He loved spending time with his brothers Tony and Andy and their families, and with his wife Tracey and their sons Cory and Colton.

He also loved his work. Scott worked as an accountant for FAMME & CO. Professional Corporation from the day he graduated from business school until the day he died. He had a particular affinity for young people, and was a caring mentor to the many students who interned at Famme.

"When I started getting letters from some of these students telling me how much Scott had helped them, we started looking for a way to keep that sense of caring alive in his name," says Tracey.

### Scholarship helps Northwestern students

Building on a generous gift from a loving cousin, Tracey, Russ and Jean established the Scott Diamond Legacy Fund in 2013. The fund provides an annual scholarship to a student from Stratford Northwestern Secondary School pursuing post-secondary education in finance or accounting.

The first award was presented in November, 2013 to Jacqueline Laing, now studying business at Wilfrid Laurier University.



Jacqueline Laing, awarded the first Scott Diamond Legacy Fund Scholarship in November, 2013, is now studying business at Wilfrid Laurier University. "It was an honour to receive this scholarship, and such a help with my first-year tuition bills," says Jackie, "I am truly grateful."

Martin Ritsma, Principal at Northwestern, says "This scholarship is a wonderful way to help today's young people, who are facing record costs for post-secondary education. We are so grateful Scott's family chose this way to honour the memory of this extraordinary man."



From left: Laurie Brown, Rosemary Tanner and Mike Hansford established the John Mavity Hockey Legacy Fund after John's untimely death. The fund assists local families with registration and equipment costs for children's hockey.

## Legacy Fund Honouring John Mavity Helps Kids Play Hockey

The name John Mavity (or "Mav," as he was affectionately known to all) is synonymous with hockey in Stratford, especially hockey for kids.

The well-known firefighter, who passed away in 2013, was a bright star on Stratford's Junior B team, attended university on a full hockey scholarship, and was even offered an NHL tryout.

Choosing instead to return to his hometown and train as a firefighter, John volunteered in the amateur hockey arena all his adult life, and had a special soft spot for the "little ones" aged 4 to 6.

When he died at age 57 after a tough battle with cancer, and thousands of gifts and condolences came pouring in, John's wife Laurie knew exactly what to do.

"It had to be something to do with kids and hockey," she says today with a smile. "He would be so thrilled to see what we've done in his name."

### A priceless gift for Stratford's families

The John Mavity Hockey Legacy Fund helps families pay for hockey registration and/or equipment.

The bursary fund, held within the Community Foundation, is administered through the Salvation Army Stratford, and Executive Director Jason Sabourin says it will make a real difference in the lives of Stratford's young people.



Lieutenant John Mavity

"Every day I see families who can maybe manage food on the table and a roof overhead – but for whom hockey is just impossible," says Jason.

*"John's friends and family have given this community a priceless gift: the ability to say 'yes, you can play this year' to a beloved daughter or son."*

### Annual golf classic increases bursary's power

Mike Hansford knew how much this legacy would have meant to his best friend John. Looking for a way to grow the fund and increase its reach, he settled on a golf tournament, and enlisted a team of John's buddies to pull it together.

That team (comprising Rob Steele, Murray McKone, Randy Petrie, Bill Preston, Rosemary Tanner and Mike) held the first John Mavity Classic in June, 2013, raising over \$10,000 for John's fund.

Says Rosemary, "John was just one of those special people who made a lasting impression on everyone he met. He never wanted praise or recognition for anything he did – he was just happy knowing he'd helped somebody out."

Now, thanks to the generosity of John's friends and family, that spirit of care and compassion will live on, helping new generations of young people play the game he loved so much.