

Community Matters

What Does Legacy Mean to You?

What comes to mind when you think of your legacy?

For Eugene Kotyk and his late wife, Dr. Shirley Inouye, their answer was easy. Helping their community.

Eugene and Shirley were very community-oriented and passionate about making a difference in the place in which they lived and created a life with each other. Eugene is a professional engineer working for a number of employers during his career and Shirley was a physician at the Fort William Clinic and at McKellar General Hospital where she delivered over 3,000 babies! Over the years, they supported a number of local organizations. The couple loved the outdoors, enjoyed canoeing, travelled extensively and spent a lot of time doing the things they cherished with many social friends. Unfortunately, after a courageous battle with cancer, Shirley passed away at an untimely age.

Before she passed, Eugene and Shirley discussed their estate planning and made sure their wishes would be carried out when they were no longer here. They both agreed they wanted to have a lasting impact for their community. That is why, in his will, Eugene plans to support the Thunder Bay Community Foundation. Eugene first heard about the Foundation in its infancy when his friend, Pru Morton made the first donation to establish it back in 1971. Ever since then, he and Shirley knew of the work the Foundation did and the positive impact it had, and continues to have, for our community.

“I created my will to include a gift to the Thunder Bay Community Foundation to perpetuate our legacy. When you give to the Foundation, it’s more than a one-time donation. Your gift will be sustained forever. You can personalize your gift and leave it to specific charities or causes that you care about, or leave it to the Foundation’s Community Fund to provide support in the areas where our community needs it the most,” says Eugene. “I must admit that the favourable tax implication was a not insignificant consideration.”

November is Make a Will Month. Starting a conversation about creating a will may seem overwhelming, but it’s not as difficult as it seems. When it comes to our community, including a charitable bequest in your will is a simple way to make a lasting gift. Such gifts are impactful, flexible, and powerful.



Eugene Kotyk and his late wife, Dr. Shirley Inouye

When you create a bequest in your will that includes the Thunder Bay Community Foundation, a Fund gets created in your name and that donation gets professionally invested and directed to the causes or organizations of your choosing.

“Legacy giving is a way to create a lasting impact for your community in perpetuity. It’s an opportunity to give back and help build our community. Your gift will have a positive impact on your family, friends and the community when you are no longer here. You can either set aside a fixed amount or a percentage of your will, and because it’s tax deductible, it can alleviate the tax burden left on your estate,” says Athena Kreiner, CEO of the Thunder Bay Community Foundation.

She also adds, “On behalf of the Thunder Bay Community Foundation, I would like to thank Eugene and Shirley for choosing our Foundation to create their legacy. Their passion for helping people in our community and the impact of their generosity will continue forever.”

The purpose of the Thunder Bay Community Foundation is to inspire, promote and facilitate philanthropy to strengthen and support the ever-changing needs of the District of Thunder Bay. We connect people, families and companies with causes where they can nurture their passion, build our community and create a legacy.

If you are interested in learning more about Legacy Giving, or have any questions about providing a gift in your will, please contact our office at (807) 475-7279 or info@tbcf.org.

A promotional graphic for 'Make a Will Month'. It features a photograph of an elderly man smiling. Overlaid on the image is the Thunder Bay Community Foundation logo in the top left. The text reads: 'November is MAKE A WILL MONTH'. Below the image, the slogan 'Nurture your Passion. Build our Community. Create a Legacy.' is written in blue text.

Thunder Bay
Community
Foundation

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