

The Power of Community

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On the cover: In front of the Stone House on Simcoe Street North, Oshawa are Tribute Communities' Frank Salemi and Lindsay Scanlan with Tribute Communities Success Scholarship recipients, Samuel Berzi, Health Sciences and Dayna Risebrough, Forensic Science.

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My warmest greetings to the entire Ontario Tech community!

As the Chancellor of Ontario Tech University, I consider myself your 'head cheerleader'. I believe strongly in the university and its can-do spirit. Ontario Tech is on the rise; we provide other institutions with a strong role model by undertaking tech with a conscience. I'm enthused about having a front-row seat to watch Ontario Tech as it continues to play a leading role in shaping education in Canada in the coming years, and I'm excited to be a part of a community full of passionate, talented leaders, educators, students, alumni and friends.

I also want to be part of this transformative period in Ontario Tech's history by supporting the university's commitment to provide our students with a stellar education. In response, I created the Chancellor's Fund, which includes a fundraising challenge of a run or walk of 7.2 km to support our students. Why 7.2 km? This is the distance between our north and downtown campuses. I was thrilled with the response to the inaugural Challenge, which raised more than \$60,000 for our students who need both our financial and emotional support. I look forward to sharing the news of this new annual Ontario Tech tradition and hope you'll join me for next year's Challenge.

COVID-19 is affecting us physically, mentally and financially, but it is also giving us time to reflect on our lives. I'm pleased to see so many of our employees and community members, some of whom are featured in this report, supporting Ontario Tech students. I'm encouraged that despite this challenging time, people continue to demonstrate their belief in our students.

As the first in my family to attend university, I know what a blessing an education can be. University shapes us into who and what we are. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to pay it forward. Together, we make our students' lives better. Thank you!

Mitch Frazer
Chancellor

Chancellor Mitch Frazer outside the construction site of the new university centre, scheduled to open in September 2021.



Meeting Students' Needs During the Pandemic

Lori Livingston, PhD, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, Ontario Tech University, will always remember the night lightning struck the barn owned by her childhood neighbours and set it ablaze.

“We, along with other neighbours, helped to herd their cattle down a busy road so they could graze on our land and we could help with daily feeding and milking chores until they found another location,” says Lori, who grew up on a small Ontario dairy farm. “It’s the spirit I was raised with. When people needed help, you stepped up to help them. It’s part of my DNA.”

Lori also knows something about the barriers students face in paying for a post-secondary education. She was a first-generation university student and worked every summer—sometimes at two or three jobs—to put herself through school. “My parents didn’t have a lot of money, so I know how challenging it can be for students to get through school,” she recalls. “I now consider myself to be very privileged, and when the pandemic occurred, I felt compelled to pitch in.”

Lori did just that with a generous contribution to the university’s Student Relief Fund that assisted up to 80 students. The fund was created to help students pay rent and bills or buy food as their world shifted and their jobs disappeared. Early in the lockdown, the Ontario Tech Student Union recognized that students were struggling financially and took action to ease their burdens by redirecting their events budget to kick-start this fund. Other donors jumped on board and the university itself committed to matching all donations.

Faculty and staff responded to the need of students, along with many other generous donors in the community—both individuals and businesses—who were eager to help Ontario Tech students cope with the crisis.

Thanks to the Student Relief Fund, the university assisted more than 1,500 students with their immediate needs: food, housing, clothing, transportation and medical expenses. More than \$400,000 has been disbursed to date and the need continues for our students.

Local business owner and long-time supporter, Ed Vanhaverbeke, was quick to assist Ontario Tech students. “When COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, I realized it would have an impact on everyone so I immediately reached out to Ontario Tech to see how I could help students,” says Ed. “I was pleased to learn that the university had created the Student Relief Fund. I was able to provide immediate support and hope the students know that, as community members, we’re behind them during this difficult time and we’ll do what we can to ensure they succeed.”

Evans Mosomi, a third-year Software Engineering student from Kenya, has benefitted from this fund. His father’s company closed temporarily when the pandemic hit, his parents were unemployed for six months and the start to his own summer job was delayed and offered reduced hours. In order to pay tuition, Evans applied to the fund and received a grant that helped him meet his financial obligations. “I was really worried,” he says, “but the fund, plus some bursaries and a scholarship, made it possible to continue. I’m very, very grateful that this fund was available when I needed it.”



“*It’s the spirit I was raised with. When people needed help, you stepped up to help them. It’s part of my DNA.*”

- Lori Livingston, PhD, Provost and Vice-President, Academic -

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Sylvia and Ed Vanhaverbeke outside the Regent Theatre.



“It’s a tremendous privilege for the Durham Community Foundation to be able to support Ontario Tech students who have been impacted by COVID-19.”

- Vivian Curl, Executive Director, Durham Community Foundation. -

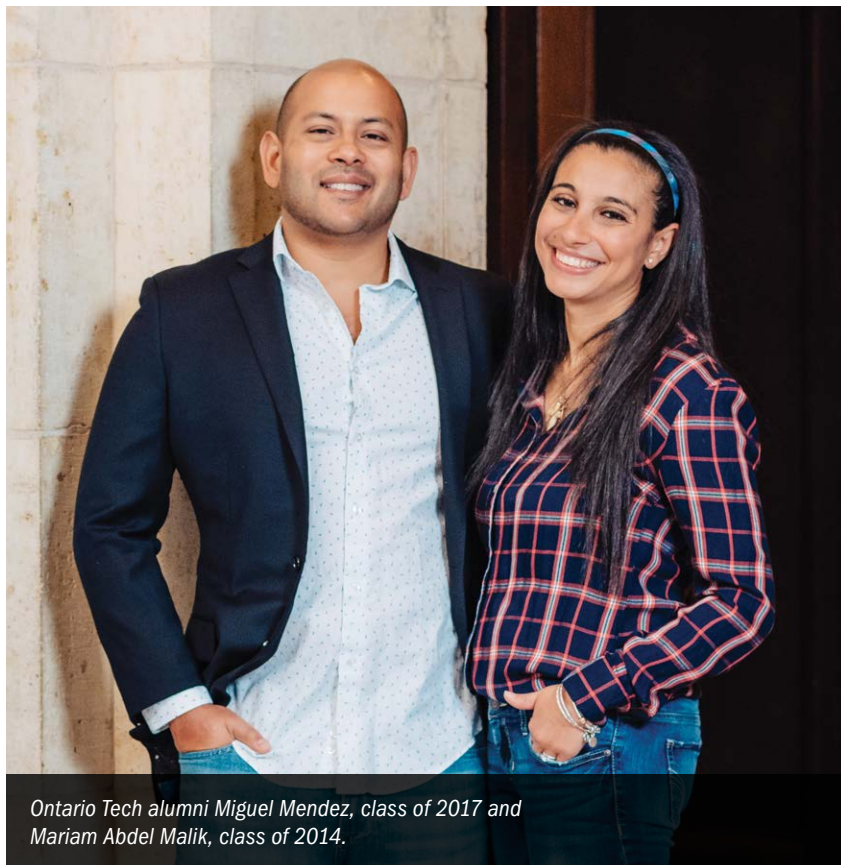
“It’s a tremendous privilege for the Durham Community Foundation to be able to support Ontario Tech students who have been impacted by COVID-19,” says Vivian Curl, Executive Director, Durham Community Foundation. “We hope this assistance, from the Government of Canada’s Emergency Community Support Fund, alleviates some of their financial pressures to help ensure they can continue their studies and achieve their academic goals.”

Tiffany Best, President of the Ontario Tech Student Union, expressed gratitude for all the support the Student Relief Fund has received. “This pandemic has had an enormous effect on us as students,” says Tiffany. “Thank you so much for helping us keep our focus on our studies as we continue to move forward as leaders of the future.”

“I was able to provide immediate support and hope the students know that, as community members, we’re behind them during this difficult time and we’ll do what we can to ensure they succeed.”

- Ed Vanhaverbeke -

Honouring a Mother's Determination



Ontario Tech alumni Miguel Mendez, class of 2017 and Mariam Abdel Malik, class of 2014.

Samia Abdel Malik attended Ontario Tech University as a mature student, raising her family before studying to become a teacher. Samia was a member of the university's first graduating class in 2004 and was a respected high school math and physics teacher. Sadly, Samia passed in 2015.

Her daughter, Mariam Abdel Malik, wanted to do something in her mother's memory. Together, with her husband Miguel Mendez, they created the Samia Abdel Malik Memorial Award given annually to mature students. Their gift was matched by the Board of Governors' Matching Fund.

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She was a lifelong learner and believed that education opens the door to future opportunity and success

- Mariam Abdel Malik -

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“When my parents immigrated to Canada from Sudan for more opportunities and education for their family, my mother took a pause in her career to raise us,” says Mariam. “As children, she helped us with our homework and was very involved with our education. Eventually, she wanted to get back to work. She was a lifelong learner and believed that education opens the door to future opportunity and success.”

The award recognizes her mother's determination and reflects the family's ties to the university. Mariam graduated from Nursing in 2014, her brother, Bishoy graduated from Nuclear Engineering in 2018 and Miguel earned his Computer Science degree in 2017.

“We wanted the award to go to a mature student like my mother,” says Mariam, a nurse in Sunnybrook Hospital's cardiac catheterization lab. “In life, second chances are hard to come by. I saw my parents struggle financially while my mom was in school, so this addresses something valuable.”

Miguel, who now has a software consulting business, received a bursary when he was at Ontario Tech. He knows first-hand how awards make a real difference, allowing a student to focus on schoolwork, rather than on earning money for tuition and living expenses.

Mariam continues to raise funds for this annual award. Recently her Sunnybrook colleagues also contributed to the fund with enthusiasm. “Saying thank you to them is not enough,” says Mariam. “These are people working in health care during the pandemic and sacrificing so much; to donate to the award is going above and beyond. It's really impactful.”

The first recipient, Hakeem, a Mechatronics student, wrote to the couple, saying, “This award is equivalent to more than 100 hours I would have to spend working rather than studying, and it's all thanks to donors' generosity. With your support, I'm one step closer to achieving my academic dreams.”

Increasing Employability with Micro-credentials



Mehreen Khan, TD Micro-credentials learner.

Mehreen Khan, a Pickering, Ontario mother of three, is busy taking the courses required to obtain admission to a master's degree program in Industrial Relations, but she's simultaneously upgrading and demonstrating her soft skills by earning micro-credentials at Ontario Tech University.

"I've found that there are skills I have but didn't know the name for the process," says Mehreen, who has earned five micro-credentials to date. "These micro-credentials have helped me gain more self-confidence, because I realized I had all these skills."

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These micro-credentials have helped me gain more self-confidence, because I realized I had all of these skills.

- Mehreen Khan -

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Micro-credentials offer formal recognition for specific, intangible skills, such as active listening or challenging cultural biases. Students validate these skills through short, knowledge-based learning opportunities. Industry leaders recognize these skills as important attributes for employee success in the workplace.

A generous donation by TD Bank Group is making it possible for Ontario Tech to offer micro-credential opportunities to learners free of charge. Everyone who successfully acquires a micro-credential through the program receives a digital badge attesting to their achievement.

"TD is proud to support Ontario Tech University and the launch of this new micro-credentials program," says Naki Osutei, Associate Vice-President, Social Impact (Canada), TD Bank Group. "Through the TD Ready Commitment, we aspire to help open doors to a more sustainable and inclusive tomorrow and create the conditions for Canadians to succeed in a changing world. TD believes education is the gateway to prepare people for the jobs of tomorrow and the catalyst for up-skilling and re-skilling individuals in a dynamically shifting workforce."

Since 2006, TD has supported Ontario Tech. This most recent gift is extremely timely, given the abundant job loss and uncertainty caused by the pandemic. The university is committed to offering a variety of credentials and learning experiences, adapting to the ever-changing educational landscape by experimenting with the most effective ways to deliver flexible and dynamic learning. This approach ultimately gives more choices to more people.

"People in today's workforce need access to a new set of competencies to remain employable—both technical know-how and transferable skills," says Steven Murphy, PhD, President and Vice-Chancellor, Ontario Tech University. "With TD Ready Commitment's generous support, members of the public can pursue our micro-credentials, which will help them participate in an innovative and rapidly changing economy."

Connection and Legacy



Mike Mothersill with his mom, Blanche Mothersill, at an E.P. Taylor Legacy event.

An Oshawa girl born and raised, the late Blanche Mothersill loved visiting Ontario Tech University, because it brought back memories of horseback riding as a teenager in the 1940s at the nearby Pleasant Valley Ranch. “She and my dad rode there together,” says Mike Mothersill, eldest son of the family, who now lives in Courtice. “Back in those days, nobody owned cars, so she would walk there from south of downtown Oshawa.”

Blanche, who passed away in 2020 at 94, served as president of the family’s Oshawa-based auto shipping company, GenAuto, from the time of her husband’s death in 1973 until the sale of the company in 2007. The company was a donor to many local organizations, including Ontario Tech.

“We became supporters of the university back in 2006,” says Mike. “It was part of our desire to give back to the community and to show support in any way we could.” The family’s generosity has provided vital support for

capital costs of the university’s Mechanical Engineering Research Labs and the Software Informatics Research Centre. Their generosity established the Mothersill Family Energy Research and Thermo Fluids Laboratory and the Mothersill Family Internet of Things Laboratory. “As an active member of Durham Region’s automotive business sector, Blanche knew the university’s unique Automotive Engineering program would foster the success of Ontario Tech, the community and the region,” states Mike.

Blanche’s legacy will continue, thanks to a bequest to the university in her will, a decision that earned her membership in Ontario Tech University’s E.P. Taylor Legacy Society, a group of individuals who have planned gifts that will make an extraordinary difference for future generations. The society is named after legendary Canadian entrepreneur, innovator and thoroughbred horse breeder Edward Plunket (E.P.) Taylor, former owner of Windfields Farm.

“Being named a member of the E.P. Taylor Legacy Society was her biggest thrill, given the tie-in with horses,” says Mike. “In fact, we went to a university reception at the Windfields Farm lands and had a chance to see the graves of some of the most famous thoroughbreds in Canada like the Kentucky Derby winner, Northern Dancer. It was amazing.”

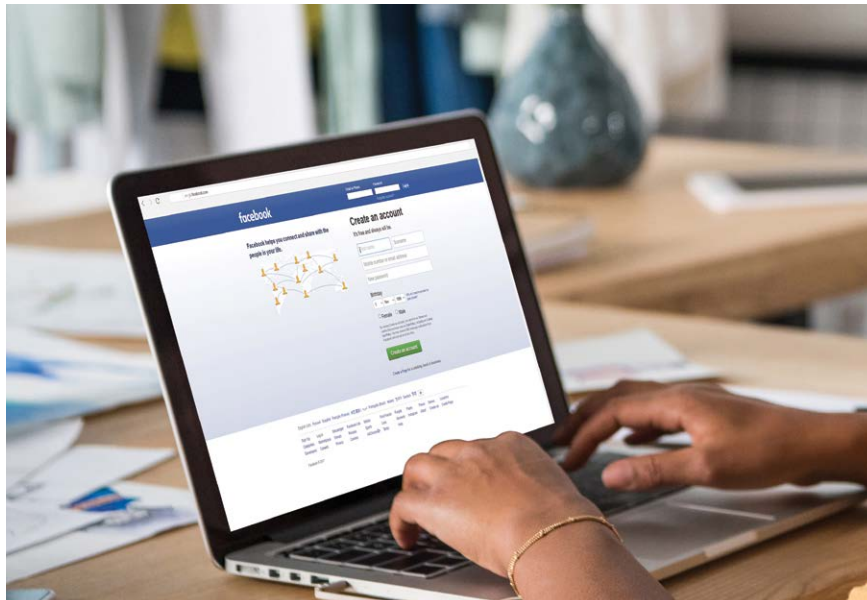
“We lived in that area of Oshawa until I was 16, so there were a lot of memories there,” Mike says. “Every time we drove up to the campus, something new was being developed. I can’t believe how much the area has grown.”

Blanche knew the university's unique Automotive Engineering program would foster the success of Ontario Tech, the community and the region.

- Mike Mothersill -

Blanche’s bequest allows the university to use the funds in any way it sees fit. “She realized the importance of the university to the community,” Mike says. “At one time, Oshawa really depended on the auto industry. After General Motors of Canada started to shut down plants there, the university began to develop and provide new opportunities for the region. There’s a 15-year connection between our family and the university, and it’s still going.”

Combating Online Hate



Digital media allows us to connect with each other more easily and frequently, however, the content of those communications isn't always benign.

A new partnership between Facebook Canada and Ontario Tech University, will help combat hate speech and other forms of extremism. The corporation's generous commitment is funding a new Global Network Against Hate, led by Barbara Perry, PhD, Director of the Centre on Hate, Bias and Extremism.

The network will facilitate knowledge dissemination and serve as the 'go-to' expertise hub in the

area of hate studies. Barbara and her team will develop strategies, policies and tools to combat hate and extremism, including how it spreads and how to stop it.

"Barbara Perry is one of Canada's foremost experts on the study of extremism and hate," says Kevin Chan, a Facebook Global Director and Head of Public Policy for Canada. "At Facebook, our own community standards prohibit hateful or harmful speech. We want to better identify these phenomena, detect their presence on the platform and deal with the offenders appropriately."

Facebook's relationship with Barbara dates back about three years when the company consulted with her about white nationalism and subsequently removed some prominent voices of hate from their platform, notes Kevin, who is also a member of Ontario Tech's Board of Governors.

"We're pleased to enter this partnership," Kevin says. "As we build the Global Network Against Hate, it will allow experts around the world to share research and best practices to deal with the challenges of online hate."

The funding will also provide the resources to facilitate global partnerships and knowledge sharing, and to host a biannual conference to build cohesive solutions on the issue of hate, involving policymakers, law enforcement, industry, academics and anti-hate groups.

"Through the support of Facebook Canada, the new Global Network will enhance the work of the Centre on Hate, Bias and Extremism as a magnet for high-quality academics to contribute to the intellectual climate, locally and internationally," says Barbara. "This sends a powerful message about our values while enabling Ontario Tech University to build its research capacity, share new knowledge and become the go-to source for policy developers seeking data, guidance and advice on this vital issue."



“ At Facebook, our own community standards prohibit hateful or harmful speech. We want to better identify these phenomena.

- Kevin Chan, Facebook Global Director and Head of Public Policy, Facebook Canada. -

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President Murphy with Fiona Man, Engineering student, at an ACE event, February 2020.

Because of You, We're Making Our Mark

Throughout 2020, our faculty and staff adapted rapidly to deliver the best academic year possible for our students. Without missing a beat, our researchers launched many new projects and collaborations with industry and government to better understand and battle COVID-19. They did this while they continued to advance research across multiple disciplines including artificial intelligence, energy solutions, cybersecurity, hate crime, and autonomous vehicles. For Ontario Tech scholars that is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to finding solutions to real-world problems.

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*We are the place to be as we
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experiential, hands-on learning.*

- Steven Murphy -

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Ontario Tech relies heavily on our partnerships including industry, community, government and academia to create meaningful experiential-learning opportunities for our students and ensure our curriculum prepares our grads for the working world. Simultaneously, our donors, who believe in our entrepreneurial spirit and our determination, propel us forward to improve society and humankind with passion. We exemplify tech with a

conscience, developing technological solutions to make the world a better place, while assessing being led by the best of what it means to be human.

This report highlights a few of the stories of donors from this past year who've helped our students and our university advance its goal of finding innovative solutions to real-world problems. We also introduced you to our Chancellor, Mitch Frazer, who began his term in May 2020. He was off to a running start—literally—launching the Chancellor's Challenge in support of the Student Relief Fund. This new tradition was a great success and I can't wait to see it develop over the coming years. I have never met a Chancellor more committed to students.

Collaboration with our donors is a relation that is deeply important to us – you are like family. We couldn't have achieved so much in such a short time without your generosity, your commitment to education, and your vision of a bright tomorrow for us all.

With your help, in just under 20 years, we've created a university that is making its substantial mark locally, across the province, the nation and the world. We are the place to be as we reinvigorate our commitment to experiential, hands-on learning.

If Covid-19 taught us anything, it is that relationships are what matter most. Let's deepen our relationship; together, we can help shape the future.

On behalf of the entire Ontario Tech community, a heartfelt thank you.

Steven Murphy, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor

Building Success for Communities



Tribute Communities Success Scholarship recipient Michael Novielli (centre) with Tribute Communities' Frank Salemi, Site Supervisor (left) and Lindsay Scanlan, Director of Sales Operations (right).

One of Tribute Communities' stated missions is "to be good corporate citizens in the communities we build." Ontario Tech University can attest to the company's commitment to that goal.

Tribute Communities has made two generous gifts to the university. The first, \$1 million to create the Tribute Communities Success Scholarships. The second, a gift-in-kind, gives Ontario Tech ownership of the historic Stone House on Simcoe Street North in Oshawa.

"Durham Region is our home," says Lucy Stocco, Executive Vice-President at Tribute Communities. "We have a long-term interest in the community and its economic well-being, and that includes education. We are always looking for new and better ways to do things. We are proud of being creative, knowledgeable and responsive."

The 100 Tribute Communities Success Scholarships are worth a total of \$10,000 per student and are available to students who have financial need. Each scholarship student receives \$1,000 in their first year of studies. As students progress, the scholarship value increases by \$1,000 each academic year, rising to

\$4,000 in fourth year. The first 25 scholarship recipients began their studies this past September.

"The scholarships are very important to our president, Al Libfeld," says Lucy. "He wanted to ensure that the aid would go to students who might not otherwise have the funds to attend university."

Al Libfeld concurs, saying, "I am pleased Tribute Communities is able to support the success of Ontario Tech students who will go on to create amazing opportunities in their own communities."

It's a partnership Steven Murphy, Ontario Tech's President and Vice-Chancellor appreciates. "Ontario Tech University and Tribute Communities share a commitment to excellence through the pursuit of innovation and a desire to build and strengthen the community," he notes. "By working together, a greater number of students will receive access to an Ontario Tech education, equipping them with the resources, tools, knowledge and experience they need to succeed."

The Stone House has a rich history; it was previously owned by Colonel R.S. McLaughlin, founder of General Motors of Canada, and by E.P. Taylor, a horse breeder and owner of Windfields Farm, home to Kentucky Derby winner Northern Dancer. The building will serve as a venue for small events and meetings at the university.

"I am pleased Tribute Communities is able to support the success of Ontario Tech students who will go on to create amazing opportunities in their own communities."

- Al Libfeld -



The Central Hub

By the end of 2021, Ontario Tech University hopes to open the doors to its newest building, the university centre. The construction of the university's new central hub for collaboration and learning will complete the north campus' quad.

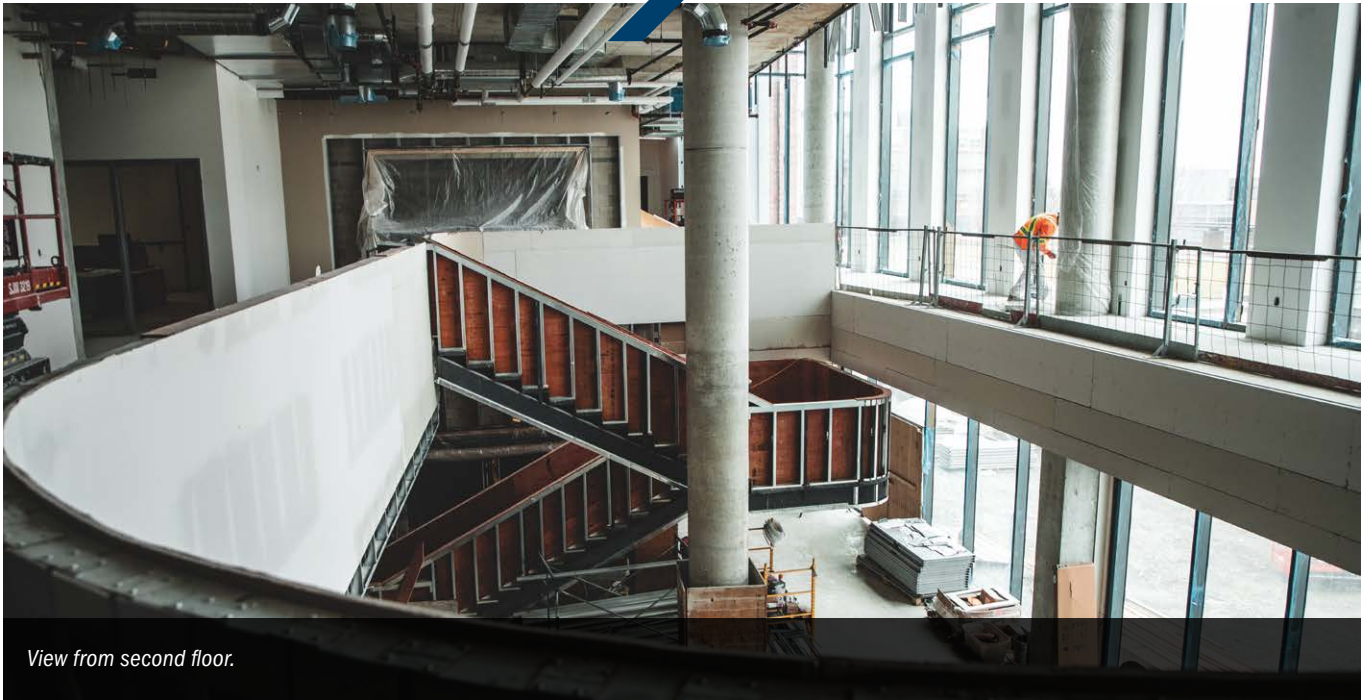
Long-time supporters of the university contributed generously to the creation of what is certain to be a vibrant space for the Ontario Tech Student Union, the Office of Student Life and the services it provides to students. The new Student Life space will offer greatly expanded room for our students to access services and support programs. An open staircase will lead to a second floor resource hub where students can easily identify their needs and connect to services such as peer tutoring, career advice, counselling, mental health support and workshops. This larger space will allow Student Life more opportunity and capacity to deliver the types of programs and resources that students need to succeed.

In addition, the Faculty of Health Sciences will come together in one space for students, faculty and staff. This includes the simulation laboratory, which will be named to recognize the support from Stanley and Wilma Lovell and Family (read more about the Lovell Family on page 15). This laboratory will provide access to the latest advances in 3D solutions as well as augmented and virtual reality.

To support the construction, St Marys Cement, which has a plant in Bowmanville, provided the university with a gift-in-kind of cement. Their gift will be recognized on a classroom. "Education is one focus for the charitable work St Marys Cement does in its communities," says Tanya Pardy, Human Resources Manager, St Marys Cement, which is now part of a Votorantim Cimentos, a worldwide corporation based in Brazil.

"We're looking for opportunities to make a difference and it starts in the classroom or, in this case, with building the classrooms. This gift represents the

Looking up to the Living Room from the lower level.



View from second floor.

beginning of a relationship for St Marys and Ontario Tech University,” Tanya explains. “We have an ongoing co-op program, and we see the university as a new pipeline for talent. We have a highly educated workforce at the plant, including chemists, engineers, procurement staff and human resources personnel. This is a great

partnership, especially since the university is right in our backyard.”

Inside the new building, visitors will find inviting spaces to encourage collaboration and promote socializing. The layout will provide flexible and dynamic learning, giving more choices to more people. It will foster learning outside of the

traditional classroom by creating unique collision spaces that spark entrepreneurship and innovation. Additional tech-focused classrooms and labs will support the delivery of the latest learning techniques.

The centre is also designed to respond to needs identified by our students. COVID-19 has magnified how critical it is for Ontario Tech to provide spaces where students can come together and access expanded mental health support. Increased capacity and new programming will help address the increasing mental health issues our students face. Our students are excited to experience all that this new university centre has to offer.

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We're looking for opportunities to make a difference and it starts in the classroom or, in this case, with building the classrooms.

- Tanya Pardy, St Marys Cement -

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St Marys Cement provided a gift-in-kind of cement for the construction.

The university centre will be a manifestation of the university's priorities: tech with a conscience, learning re-imagined, partnerships and a place for people to collaborate and learn.

"This is not just a building, but a catalyst for emerging ideas and possibilities; a radical step to brave the future," says Lori Livingston, PhD, Provost and Vice President, Academic.

Paying it Forward



Colleen Walker

Colleen Walker's late father, Fred Hogan, regularly reminded her to "use your education to make your mark on the world."

Colleen, who retired from a long career in nuclear energy, first at Ontario Power Generation and then at DTE Energy in Michigan, has done exactly that, by assisting the STEM community through her philanthropy. A long-time supporter of Ontario Tech University, she has established two scholarships

and most recently supported a classroom in the new university centre.

Several years ago, Colleen established an endowed scholarship to assist women in the Nuclear Engineering program in memory of her father. "I wanted to help young women in STEM programs go out and make their own mark on the world," she says. "I thought the scholarship would help relieve some of the financial

stresses associated with going to school. STEM programs are tough to begin with, so I wanted to alleviate some of the pressure a student may be feeling."

Colleen explains why she created a second endowed scholarship in memory of her late husband James Dewes. "Jim was always supportive of my continuous learning philosophy and of women working in the nuclear field, so it's a fitting tribute.

He had a passion for education and understood the challenges women faced in forging a path in a traditionally male industry. He also knew first-hand the hardship a lack of financial support could pose in meeting career goals. He wanted others to have the opportunity that he did not."

Colleen certainly understands the value of support, both financial and emotional, during university. This is why her most recent gift was directed to support the new university centre. It will ensure all students feel welcome and supported with Student Life services together in one hub. There will also be inviting gathering spaces to encourage students, industry partners and members of our community to collaborate.

"Dad had high expectations and standards, but he always had our backs," says Colleen. "I am glad to be able to offer that same kind of support to women who may not have as much backing as I had. More and more women are going into nuclear engineering. It's very exciting to see."

“

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- Colleen Walker -

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A Family Tradition of Education and Community



(front left) Diana Kirk, Wilma Lovell, (back left) Arthur Lovell and Linda McGill.

A family with deep Oshawa roots and a strong tradition of community support, the Lovells made a generous gift in support of Ontario Tech University's capital requirements for the new university centre and the Faculty of Science simulation lab. The space within the Faculty will be named the S.E. Lovell Family Simulation Laboratory, in memory of Stanley Lovell, son of Edwin, the former owner of Lovell Drugs, who died in 2010.

"Our family has been involved in education since our grandfather's day," says Arthur Lovell, Stanley's son, who, along with his sisters, Diana Kirk and Linda McGill, and their mother, Wilma Lovell, made the gift. "Our grandfather had a school named after him in Oshawa and was the first administrator to receive the Lamp of Learning Award from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation for his outstanding contribution to public

education. Our father was chair of the Board of Education; he was the first chair of the Durham District School Board when the transition to a regional board took place. He was also one of the founding governors of Durham College."

In fact, says Diana, "Dad was very involved with the board and could show up at the high school unannounced at any time, so when we were students, we knew we had to toe the line."

Arthur says it is important to the family to continue their philanthropy in the education sector and they are proud to be connected to Ontario Tech. "It was an amazing thing for the city to have the university built here," he says, noting that the entire family resides in Oshawa. "It allows local youth to stay close to home and get a good education."

Through their company, Lovell Holdings Ltd., the family owns property in downtown Oshawa and has been involved in renovating one of the properties—Fourteen ½ King Street East—as an apartment building, part of a revitalization effort in the downtown core.

"We hope it will continue to help kick-start the downtown," Arthur says. "Having Ontario Tech buildings downtown has brought a lot of people."

"We are very proud of the involvement our grandfather and our father had in the education system. It was important to them, so it's important to us."

- Diana Kirk -

They are happy to extend their generosity to Ontario Tech. "We are very proud of the involvement our grandfather and our father had in the education system. It was important to them, so it's important to us," Diana says.



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in STEM


“The support and the generosity of the Women for STEM program has boosted my confidence and made me want to be a leader in my field. I want to make valuable contributions not just to the tech community, but towards helping fellow women feel more open and encouraged to enter this workspace and carve their own futures,” says Noshin Rahman, second-year Networking and IT Security student, addressing the approximately 200 attendees at the second annual Women for STEM Summit in 2020.

The Summit brought together people across various industries and organizations for a virtual event that highlighted the opportunities and challenges women face in making their mark in the workplace. The audience also included other Women for STEM Scholarship recipients.

The Women for STEM program has three pillars designed to increase gender parity in STEM fields. The Summit promotes the benefits of gender diversity and aims to help organizations increase inclusion and equity in their operations. The second pillar includes mentorship opportunities to build a greater network of support.

The third pillar of the program is fundraising for scholarships for women in STEM programs where there is low female enrolment. “We are now in our second year of providing \$100,000 for 20 entrance awards for women in STEM programs, and will provide \$40,000 in in-course scholarships for our second-year students,” says Lisa McBride, Chair of the Women for STEM Council. “Thank you, to the donors who have made this possible and to our sponsors of the Summit. All net proceeds will be directed to the Women for STEM Scholarship fund. I would like to say a special thank you to the Woodbridge Group, our presenting sponsor for the 2020 Summit and a donor to the scholarship program.”

Woodbridge is a global company, based in Mississauga, specializing in fully integrated foam solutions for the automotive and non-automotive markets. “We have a long history of partnership with Ontario Tech University, and STEM is critical to our organization and our industry,” says Jo-Ann Giesbrecht, the company’s Senior Vice-President, Human Resources, Health, Safety and Environment



Noshin Rahman, Women for STEM Scholarship recipient.



Leadership in a Time of Crisis Panel, (top left), Fawn Annan, President and CEO of ITWC, publisher of ITWorldCanada.com, moderator, Denina Simmons, Assistant Professor, Canada Research Chair, Ontario Tech University and Rashi Talwar, Director Operations Analytics, Scotiabank; bottom left Steven Murphy, President and Vice-Chancellor, Ontario Tech University and Jo-Ann Giesbrecht, Senior Vice-President, Human Resources, Health, Safety and Environment, Woodbridge Group.

and a member of the university's Women for STEM Council.

"We continue to have equity, diversity and inclusion as a priority at Woodbridge because if you're not focused on the full pool of available candidates, you're missing out. We believe Ontario Tech University's investment and prioritization of women in STEM is unique and important," says Jo-Ann.

Like Woodbridge, other sponsors of the Summit: Agilent, the Society of United Professionals, 360 Insights, Association of Consulting Engineering Companies Ontario, Bruce Power, Microsoft, Nuclear Waste Management Organization

and Scotiabank also want to show their support and encourage other businesses and organizations to get involved to help increase the number of women in STEM fields.

The Summit featured keynote addresses from Kevin Peesker, President, Microsoft Canada and Rhonda Barnet, President and Chief Operating Officer, AVIT Manufacturing, as well as a panel discussion on Leadership and Innovation in a Time of Crisis.

Full recording of the Summit is available at ontariotechu.ca/womenforstem

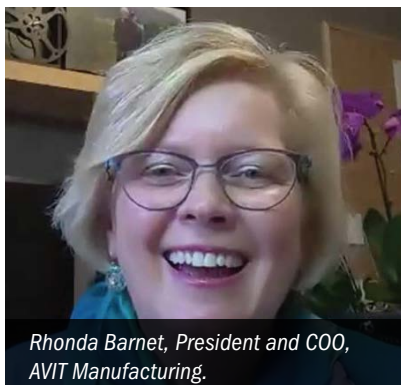


We continue to have equity, diversity and inclusion as a priority at Woodbridge because if you're not focused on the full pool of available candidates, you're missing out.

- Jo-Ann Giesbrecht -



Kevin Peesker, President, Microsoft Canada.



Rhonda Barnet, President and COO, AVIT Manufacturing.



Rene Massie (back right) with her graduating class of 1958, Macclesfield, England.

A Mother's Beloved Profession

Watching the popular television series, *Call the Midwife*, took the late Rene Massie back to her nursing training days at a hospital in northern England, cycling through town to help deliver a baby.

Rene, who died in January 2020 at 82 years of age, spent her nursing career bringing new lives into the world. She began her working life in Macclesfield, England, but spent most of her career at Oshawa General Hospital (now Lakeridge Health Oshawa). She came to Canada with a group of other young nurses in the 1960s, intending to travel across the country and move on to visit Australia. Along the way, however, she fell in love with Alexander Massie, a transplanted Scot, and settled in Ontario.

Oshawa became Rene's home and Oshawa General Hospital her second home. She worked as an Obstetrics

Nurse until her retirement, serving as Director of the Birthing Suite for the final years of her career. Rene was known for being caring and feisty, not afraid to stand up to physicians and administrators for what she believed was necessary and right.

The Rene Massie Scholarship endowment fund was created by her daughter, Alison Broadworth, Director, Engagement Services at Ontario Tech University. "My mum would have loved to attend university, but she grew up at a time when it was more important to get a job and start contributing to the family," says Alison. "She always emphasized how important education was to opening doors. It was always a given in our family that my brother and I would earn university degrees."

Alison wanted to honour her mother by opening doors for others entering Rene's beloved profession. "At the hospital, one of her favourite tasks was working with Nursing students who were on her floor to get some practical experience."

“

She always emphasized how important education was to opening doors.

- Alison Broadworth -

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"Ontario Tech has many first-generation students whose parents have given up a lot so they can go to university," says Alison. "To know my mum's name is tied to nursing and helping others to become nurses is wonderful, and if their coursework takes them to Lakeridge Health Oshawa, that's extra special."

Easing Financial Burdens



A Carnegie Foundation scholarship made it possible for a young James Walker Wood to attend the University of Aberdeen early in the last century. After earning his Medical degree in 1914, James essentially did his residency on the front lines.

The First World War was raging and the Allies had a desperate need for

physicians. He joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and served as a medical officer in the trenches on the Western Front.

When he returned home, James established a family medical practice in Yorkshire, England, tending to the poorer families in Leeds. His physician's office was attached to the family home, making him on call 24/7 every day of the year, recalls his granddaughter, Kate Wood.

Although James died in the 1960s, he instilled a similar work ethic in his family. His son, Neil Wood, became President of Fidelity Trust and later founded Camwood Properties Ltd. In 2006, Neil sold Camwood and with his wife, Susan, established the Walker Wood Foundation in James' memory.

Today, the Walker Wood Foundation mainly focuses on providing bursaries and scholarships across

Canada to university students in financial need. Ontario Tech University is one of its newest beneficiaries with the family's generous gift to establish the Walker Wood Foundation Bursary, available to all undergraduate students in all years of study.

"My father always had a strong belief in education and with his success, decided the best way to help those in need was to assist in funding their education," says Kate, who, with her mother, oversees the Foundation.

As the Foundation has grown, so has its reach. It now provides scholarships and bursaries at more than 40 Canadian universities and colleges. "It is rewarding to be able to assist students," says Kate. "We often receive lovely letters from recipients and it is amazing to hear their stories and challenges they have overcome to pursue their studies." She hopes students will benefit as much from the bursaries and scholarships as the generations of her own family have, thanks to her father's help and support with their education.

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My father always had a strong belief in education and with his success, decided the best way to help those in need was to assist in funding their education.

- Kate Wood -

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Devon and Linda Biddle at the donor wall unveiling in 2012.

Founding Friend and Community Builder

Ontario Tech University and the Durham Region community lost a champion this past year with the death of Devon Biddle.

Devon, who resided in Oshawa for half a century, was a strong supporter of Ontario Tech, as well as many other local and regional endeavours. He worked throughout his time at university while he earned his Engineering degree. He then set about building the successful firm, D.G. Biddle & Associates, which he ran for many years before selling the firm to his employees. It continues to thrive today.

"Devon considered the company a family business," says Linda Biddle, his wife of 53 years. "His success depended on his staff, and he respected and supported them. As employees, they were all able to look after their own families."

In fact, family was a major motivator for Devon and Linda. Their three children and five grandchildren see reminders of him in their daily lives, especially when they spend time together at the family cottage. "He did a lot of his own work on the cottage, but everywhere he went, his computer and briefcase always went with him," Linda says. "Everything he did was for the betterment of everyone else around him."

"The university is something we can all be proud of, and it's a great cause to support," Linda says. "Devon was happy to help out, and, of course, he always had a soft spot for engineering."

Recently, he and Linda made a generous gift to the new Software and Informatics Research Centre and provided new funding for graduate students and internships. They also supported the Student Design Team Fund in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science. Devon was also a founding member of the Friends of Ontario Tech Committee and helped promote the university throughout the region.

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The university is something we can all be proud of, and it's a great cause to support.

- Linda Biddle -

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"Devon worked with the Advancement team to provide advice and make community connections," says Denise Jones, Chair, Friends of Ontario Tech Committee. "Even though Ontario Tech University didn't exist when he went to university, he saw it almost as his alma mater. It was something he believed we truly needed in Durham Region and understood what it could do for the community. He was a big believer in the education system and he'll be greatly missed."

Your Impact, Together We're Stronger



Susan McGovern, Vice-President, External Relations and Advancement celebrates Pi Day of Giving with Hunter.

The success of our students is a testament to the strength of our campus community and the impact of donor support.

Last year was another exciting year at Ontario Tech, despite the global pandemic. We offered relief to students in need, funded bursaries and scholarships, conducted leading edge research and built our new university centre which will provide additional student supports. We're honoured that so many of you believe strongly in our vision.

In fact, individual donors, corporations, foundations and not-for-profits stepped up to the challenge and committed more than \$10.6 million in 2020 in support of our current campaign. Thank you!

During this challenging year, it's been inspiring to hear from so many of you who reached out concerned

about our students and lent your support. It's heartening to see the strength of our community behind Ontario Tech and that, together, we can offer our students compassion and assistance when they need it the most.

We cannot thank you enough for helping us deliver an educational experience that supports students in the world where they live today, and prepares them for the world they'll create tomorrow.

Susan T. McGovern
Vice-President,
External Relations and Advancement

Your generosity



Student support



Our faculty, programs and athletics



The university's capital needs

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It's heartening to see the strength of our community behind Ontario Tech and that, together, we can offer our students compassion and assistance...

- Susan McGovern -

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Let's Brave The Future together.



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