



Edward and Christina Sorbara of
the Sorbara Group of Companies.



The Power of Giving

Report on Donor Philanthropy

January 1 to December 31, 2022

The Power of Giving

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| Chancellor's Message

Once again, in 2022, the Ontario Tech University community demonstrated its belief in the value of education by supporting the Chancellor's Challenge, our annual five-kilometre run/walk to raise funds for scholarships and bursaries. We joined forces to raise almost \$80,000, which was doubled by the Board of Governors' Matching Fund for a total of approximately \$160,000. We also had fun doing so together on campus, which was a real treat as we transitioned from a previously virtual event. I am immensely proud to be the 'Students' Chancellor', and my running shoes are my witness.

The Chancellor's Challenge continues to gain momentum and create incredible impact. It is an excellent opportunity to contribute to the greatest needs of our students, including scholarships and bursaries, while sharing an active and unique experience with faculty, staff, students, alumni and the wider community.

My family includes its share of educators, and I strongly believe that education is the key to the future. This is why I am excited by the work our university is doing to open doors to a brighter tomorrow.

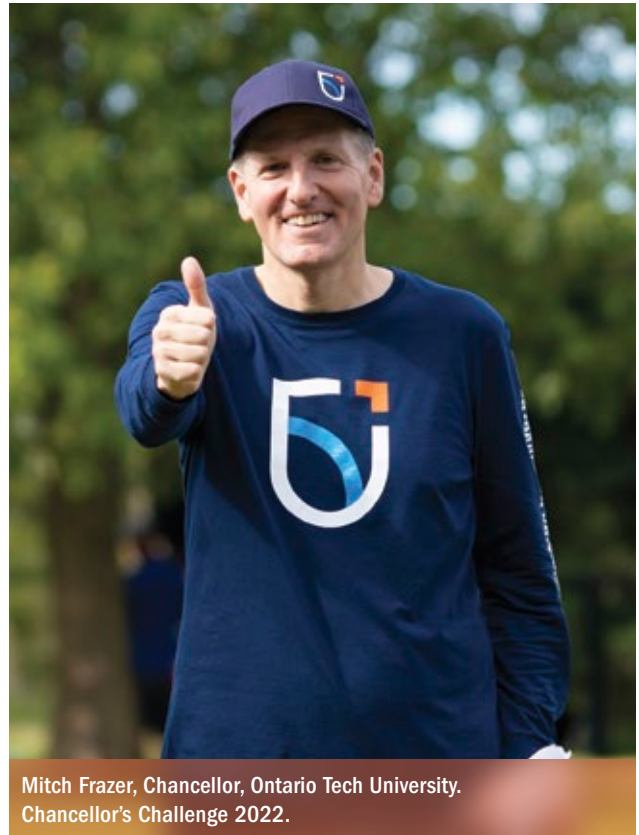
Over the last several years, the need for effective online learning has become evident. Ontario Tech faculty members have made a real difference by helping their counterparts in primary and secondary education bring their lessons online. By offering online learning conferences, faculty members have helped hundreds of teachers understand how to transition in-person classes to engaging online courses. I am inspired by the Mitch and Leslie Frazer Faculty of Education's leadership role in this capacity and I look forward to seeing how they will contribute to redefining education in the future.

I am passionate about technological and social innovation in teaching and learning, and I continue to be grateful for everyone at Ontario Tech who shares their expertise and knowledge. I am beyond proud to be part of this amazing community.

Sincerely,



Mitch Frazer, Chancellor



**Mitch Frazer, Chancellor, Ontario Tech University.
Chancellor's Challenge 2022.**

Eppel Gift is Building Innovation and Boosting Communities

It is appropriate that Ontario Tech University named the Eppel Family Technology-Enhanced Learning Studio in Shawenjigewining Hall to recognize Jenö Eppel and his family for their generosity to the university. After all, Jenö is Past President of EHC Global, one of the most trusted and respected brands and innovators in the vertical transportation industry.

Oshawa-based EHC Global, founded by Ronald Ball in 1977 and originally known as the Escalator Handrail Company, has become one of the world's largest escalator component manufacturers. Jenö began his EHC career as one of seven employees working on the factory floor in the company's handrail production facility, where he gained invaluable experience by taking on new roles and management responsibilities.

In 1996, Ronald and Jenö established one of the world's largest escalator and elevator parts manufacturing operations in Shanghai, China. In 2000, Jenö was appointed Vice-President and became President in 2005. He held this role until his retirement in January 2021.

"There is a great deal of technology developed at Ontario Tech and that's intriguing because of my background in manufacturing," says Jenö.

The generous gift, valued at \$540,000, was celebrated with Jenö, his wife, Diane, and children, Jake and Jill, in attendance.

"We are excited and proud to support Ontario Tech University students—the entrepreneurs and innovators of tomorrow," Jenö said. "I would also like to thank my parents for instilling in me, early on, the value and importance of honesty, integrity, a strong work ethic and the importance of giving back to our community and helping to make the world a better place. In fact, it was my father, an immigrant from Hungary and entrepreneur in his own right, who first taught me the meaning of 'work hard'—without his mentorship and love, I would have never accomplished what I have in life."

Jenö is a proud resident of Durham Region. The family's connection to Ontario Tech was reinforced when their daughter Jill graduated from the university with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 2021. Jenö and his entire family have a strong desire to promote the welfare of others and they chose Ontario Tech, located in their community, as the focus of their generous philanthropy.

"Progress and innovation are what business is all about," Jenö says.

He is happy to support such an innovative and thriving post-secondary leader in the community.

"Education means a great deal to me," Jenö says. "I hope to see Ontario Tech use our gift to continue the university's growth and to help students."

"If, as a result, successful new graduates come out of Ontario Tech as leaders and make the world a better place, it will make me feel good."



From left: Jenö Eppel, Jill Eppel, Diane Eppel, and Jake Eppel in front of the Eppel Family Technology-Enhanced Learning Studio (Shawenjigewining Hall, at Ontario Tech University's north Oshawa location).

OCNI Supports Synergy

Bill Walker, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI), is a big believer in working collaboratively wherever possible.

He notes the nuclear industry is experiencing a renaissance in the face of rapid climate change, and is more focused than ever on working with universities to ensure there is skilled future talent to fill the growing number of nuclear jobs anticipated.

“I think we always have to be looking at the feeder system and at planting seeds to maximize the educational opportunities and engagement for the next generation,” Bill says. “We want to develop a rapport and look toward the future together. How can we work with government, for instance, to find ways to meet the demand for personnel?”

OCNI has partnered with Ontario Tech University since 2006. Most recently, OCNI renewed its commitment to fund the OCNI-Martyn Wash Memorial Scholarship, which provides two annual awards for second-, third- or fourth-year full-time undergraduate students in the Ontario Tech Nuclear Engineering program.

“We are proud to honour Martyn Wash, the first leader of our organization, and the ability to have an impact on a personal level is a big drawing card,” Bill says.



Bill Walker, President and Chief Executive Officer, Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries.

A Helping Hand for Students

Irene Rahme grew up in Oshawa long before plans for Ontario Tech University were on the drawing board, graduating from two schools that have since closed their doors: Ritson Road Public School and Oshawa Central Collegiate Institute. Although Irene dreamed of becoming a teacher, life took her in a different direction. She spent her career at General Motors (GM) where she met her late husband, Gord, also a GM employee.

“Students today have exposure to so many more possibilities,” Irene says. “It’s fascinating to listen to their ideas and dreams.”

After Gord’s passing in 2020 at age 92, she began considering what to do with her estate and started exploring the tax implications of distributing her funds.

“Because I don’t have children, I began thinking about places I could donate my money to, and I wanted to do something different,” she says. “I came to a donor thank-you event for Lynda Hatfield at Ontario Tech—we went to grammar school together—and I was inspired.”

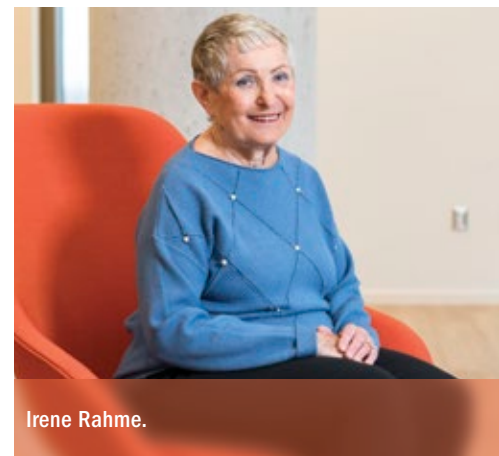
“I’m happy to give my money to someone who is going to do something productive with it.”

Not only did Irene make a donation of securities to the university in 2022; she has also remembered Ontario Tech in her will, joining the university’s E.P. Taylor Legacy Society. A portion of her recent gift was designated for capital needs and the remainder will be used to support Ontario Graduate Scholarships, as well as the Engineering student design teams. Irene enjoys her connection to the Ontario Tech community and is eager to see the design teams in action.

“Meeting the students intrigues me,” Irene says. “They’re all trying to better themselves.”

Irene has an extra soft spot and great respect for international students who have travelled so far from home to pursue their dreams.

“It’s fascinating when you hear their stories,” Irene says. “I hadn’t realized what some young people do to get an education. The way they cope on their own without any family amazes me and so does their motivation. They have their goals all figured out.”



Irene Rahme.

Passion for Sustainability Born at Ontario Tech

Anthony Boland (Faculty of Science, class of 2012) entered Ontario Tech University with plans to become a science teacher until he discovered a passion for sustainability. Today, he is Director of Development for Metrolinx, working toward creating transit-oriented communities.

“I learned about sustainability in the classroom and about how government works outside of the classroom,” says Anthony, who became active in student government and served as President of the university’s Student Association. “I feel very lucky to have gone to Ontario Tech when it was a very new university. All of us felt like pioneers working with a bit of a blank canvas and I had a real opportunity to make a mark by playing a role in student leadership.”

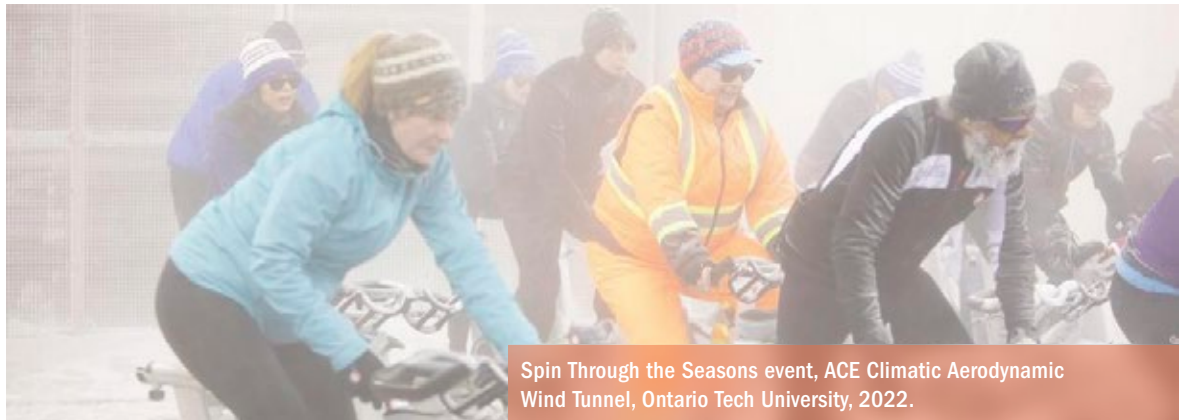
His path after graduation led him to an internship at Queen’s Park; a master’s degree in Public Administration from Queen’s University, where he focused on transit policy; and a job with the Ontario government before joining Metrolinx. Recently, he created the Boland Family Award in Energy and Environmental Sustainability, presented to a student in the Energy Engineering program.

“I received a scholarship while going to Ontario Tech and it allowed me to focus on my studies without working a couple of part-time jobs,” Anthony says. “I know how much support can mean.”

“I gained so much from Ontario Tech and this is a great opportunity to give back. As someone who grew up in Oshawa, I want to see the university continue to grow and prosper. It has come so far, and its brightest days lie ahead. Ontario Tech has so much potential.”



Anthony Boland, Faculty of Science, class of 2012.



Spin Through the Seasons event, ACE Climatic Aerodynamic Wind Tunnel, Ontario Tech University, 2022.

Paying it Forward

Memories of the financial challenges experienced while attending university inspired a group of eight alumni—the Next Generation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Alumni Group—to create an award for current Ontario Tech University students.

Four students from the Faculty of Science or the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science in need of financial support will each receive the \$1,000 Next Generation in STEM Award, first handed out in 2022.

“This has been a goal of mine, personally, given the struggles that my friends and I had,” says Raoul Akakpo, who joined forces with his fellow Engineering graduates—Baker Baha, Nelson Baro Motu, Rocky Khasow, Kimal Lloyd-Phillip, Raef Roman, Jimi Shogo and Brianna Roman (née Strong)—to create the award. “We’ve all been blessed to graduate from university and have good jobs and the means to help the next generation. Some of us might have fallen through the cracks without financial assistance at university.”

The Next Generation in STEM Alumni Group recognizes that many factors outside of school can affect a student’s academic performance, such as worries about covering transportation costs or needing to

help with family finances. This dedicated group of alumni hopes their award will help alleviate some of the financial burden and stress for students, allowing them to focus on their studies.

“Personally, I received help during school,” notes Brianna Roman. “Having been a broke student, it’s nice to know that someone else will have the feeling that there’s a helping hand available.”

The group views the award as a long-term commitment and hopes this is just the beginning of a legacy of alumni giving.

“We hope this is infectious and other alumni get on board to help students, too,” Raoul adds.



Next Generation in STEM Alumni Group from left: Raoul Akakpo, Baker Baha, Raef Roman, Nelson Baro Motu, Brianna Roman, Kimal Lloyd-Phillip, and Jimi Shogo.

Support for Education Dates Back to Company’s Origin

Yvonne Brady, a Senior Consultant with Johnson Insurance who resides in Oshawa, remembers the excitement she felt when Ontario Tech University was being built.

“Not many people understood what having a university in Durham Region would look like,” Yvonne says. “Now, here we are today as both donors and affinity partners with an affiliation that dates back to 2009. Meanwhile, Ontario Tech has taken the community beyond where it ever expected to go, in a forward-thinking fashion.”

In 2022, Johnson Insurance served as a Gold Sponsor for the university’s Women for STEM Summit, a Gold Sponsor and judge at the university’s Three Minute Thesis pitch competition, and a sponsor for the annual Pi Day of Giving. In addition, students continue to benefit from the company’s \$2,500 scholarship, which remains available through 2023–2024.

Johnson Insurance is also an Ontario Tech University Alumni Association affinity partner, providing preferred group rates on insurance to alumni, faculty and staff.

“As an organization, making the world a better place is one of our core values and we look for those opportunities,” Yvonne says. “Our belief in education also goes back to Johnson’s roots in Newfoundland. Our founder, Paul Johnson, made his first entry into partnerships through education; it was his passion.”

Yvonne and her colleagues have represented the company at several Ontario Tech charitable events, including a spinning fundraiser held at ACE, the Chancellor’s Challenge and the Women for STEM Summit.

“Ontario Tech has transformed our community. Supporting education will remain at the forefront of our partnership as we continue under our new brand, belairdirect.”

Actua Crucial to Engineering Outreach

Actua provides training, resources, and support to a national network of university and college members across Canada so we can deliver science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education outreach programming to youth with zero barriers. Each year, Actua's network members engage over 350,000 youth in 500 communities nationwide. Ontario Tech Engineering Outreach, part of Ontario Tech's Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, has been a member of the Actua network since 2018.

"This year our Engineering Outreach initiatives have reached more than 27,000 youth through engaging STEM programs," says Ellen James, Ontario Tech's Engineering Outreach Manager. "Such a remarkable reach wouldn't have been possible without the partnership and invaluable support of Actua. Their commitment, advocacy, generous funding, and transformative training opportunities have truly been a catalyst for growing the STEM skills within our community. Through Actua's outstanding contributions, we've witnessed a substantial increase in digital skills within our community."

By working with school boards and community organizations, Ontario Tech's Engineering Outreach program familiarizes youth in kindergarten through Grade 12 with STEM and engages youth in activities that bring STEM to life. In addition to financial support, Actua provides resources such as training materials and connections to other universities that offer similar programs, allowing its network members to learn from each other.

"Actua's invaluable support enables Ontario Tech Engineering Outreach to expand its program offerings significantly, both during the academic year and throughout the summer," says Ellen. "Our summer outreach efforts, for instance, now encompass an impressive array of 20 one-week camps, featuring specialized programs like Robotics and Programming Fundamentals developed and delivered by Ontario Tech Engineering Outreach staff and student leaders."

Ontario Tech's Indigenous youth programming actively involves students from grades 1 to 12 in immersive STEM experiences. These programs span across both

Durham Region and Northern Ontario, prioritizing land-based learning and are led by Indigenous youth who are passionate about STEM education. The programs focus on the harmonious intersection of Indigenous Knowledge and Western perspectives, fostering a holistic and enriched approach to STEM education.

Ontario Tech Engineering Outreach hosts a variety of STEM clubs, including programs tailored to Black youth and girls, spanning grades 1 to 12. These programs are strategically designed to foster mentorship and facilitate the growth of digital skills through immersive, hands-on STEM learning experiences.

"I take immense pride and passion in our ability to engage with 27,000 young minds who may very well become the future engineers of our world," says Dr. Hossam Kishawy, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science. "Actua's invaluable support plays a pivotal role in enabling us to ignite the spark of STEM excitement among the youth across Durham Region and beyond. By nurturing their curiosity and engagement in STEM, we aim to inspire them to acquire the skills required to tackle some of the challenges that society will face."

"Actua is delighted to support Ontario Tech in fostering a new generation of STEM leaders," says Jennifer Flanagan, Co-Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer, Actua. "Our future depends on our ability to inspire and prepare youth with skills and confidence in STEM. By engaging youth today—particularly youth from equity-deserving communities—we're strengthening the social fabric and economic outcomes of the future."



Ontario Tech's Engineering Outreach program engages youth in kindergarten through Grade 12.

Hydro One Supports Women in Engineering

Since 2013, Hydro One has worked in partnership with Ontario Tech University, Toronto Metropolitan University, the University of Waterloo and Western University to increase the number of women studying engineering, with a focus on electrical and mechanical engineering programs.

The company's financial support helps Ontario Tech's Engineering Outreach team provide programming to girls in kindergarten to Grade 12 through the Inspire program, which promotes awareness of the critical roles of electrical and mechanical engineering in our society and sustainable futures.

Once female-identified students enter Ontario Tech's engineering programs, Hydro One supports their academic needs by funding tutoring, peer support and other assistance as they accustom themselves to the rigours of the curriculum. Support in upper years includes professional and peer mentoring to help students prepare to enter the workforce.

Hydro One also offers co-op opportunities to female-identifying Engineering students.

"Hydro One is committed to creating a workforce that is reflective of the diverse populations of the communities where we live and work," says Andrew Spencer, EVP, Capital Portfolio Delivery, Hydro One. "We are proud to be working with Ontario Tech and other partners to encourage women's interest in engineering, and the positive contributions they will make as graduates."



Ontario Tech University Engineering students benefit from a variety of Hydro One supports.

GM Support for STEM Keeps on Truckin'

General Motors (GM) Canada, a longtime donor to Ontario Tech University, is "committed to promoting science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to underrepresented groups across the country," says Regan Dixon, GM's Senior Manager, Thermal and Body Software and Diagnostics, who has been directly involved in determining how the company supports that goal.

GM works with Ontario Tech's Engineering Outreach team to make this commitment a reality. In 2022, the company sponsored the c_wonder: Mobile Design Lab and the Turtle Island summer camp. c_Wonder is a school-based outreach program that provides hands-on learning and design-thinking STEM workshops to students in kindergarten to Grade 12. Ontario Tech Engineering Outreach staff bring the dedicated GM truck/lab directly to schools to deliver age-appropriate programs.

"It's a great way to marry the auto industry and underserved communities who can't get to the university," says Regan. "However, the pandemic created an innovation in how this program works and these programs are now delivered virtually, too."

Meanwhile, the Turtle Island summer camp studies the relationship between STEAM (STEM plus the

arts), Indigenous Peoples and the land. The weeklong camp explores STEAM and makes connections to the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples to help campers better understand their responsibility as stewards of the environment.

"Our goal is to support culturally responsible programming for youth who may not have robust STEM learning opportunities," says Kristy Brown, GM Senior Manager, Internal, CSR, and Manufacturing Communications. "We want to increase their presence, persistence and achievements in STEM."



c_wonder: Mobile Design Lab.

Women for STEM Summit: A Continued Success

More than 200 attendees convened on the Ontario Tech University campus on October 12, 2022, for the fourth-annual Women for STEM Summit, a day-long event created to address the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and to encourage women students, employees and entrepreneurs in STEM-based fields to fulfil their potential.

“The Summit brings together students, faculty and industry personnel for a forum where we’re able to share experiences and opportunities for change,” says Lisa McBride, Chair of the Women for STEM Council and Vice-President and Country Leader GE Hitachi SMR Canada. “As women, we find ourselves under a lot of pressure to deliver in STEM fields where we are underrepresented.”

The theme of the 2022 Summit, Journey to Sustainable Equity, explored what the next steps need to be to achieve sustainable equity, and how women in STEM careers are helping to shape that future. The event featured two powerful keynote speakers and two panels.

Judy R. Goldring gave the opening keynote address. Judy is President and Head of Global Distribution at AGF Management Limited and a renowned leader in the asset management industry. As someone who has climbed the corporate ladder, she is well aware of the challenges women face in male-dominated fields, and as the person responsible for overseeing AGF Management’s human resources function, she is well-versed in the importance of equity and access.

The closing keynote speaker was equally accomplished. Dr. Marie Claire Bourque, a psychiatrist and Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary, recently served as a member of the Working Group on Mental Health, Royal Society of Canada Task Force on COVID-19. She was well-positioned to share insights on how to move forward in a post-pandemic world.



Judy R. Goldring, Women for STEM Summit keynote speaker.

In between, the attendees absorbed the words of panels of experts in STEM and entrepreneurship; equity, diversity and inclusion; and the changing workforce.

As always, the Women for STEM Summit received valuable support from many dedicated sponsors:

- Elexicon Energy, Presenting Sponsor
- Amazon, Platinum Sponsor
- Johnson Insurance, Laurentian Bank and Meta, Gold Sponsors; and
- 360insights, Alithya, Invest Durham, Nuclear Waste Management Organization, OLG and SNC-Lavalin, Silver Sponsors.

Women for STEM Fund Marches Toward Goal

Ontario Tech University's Women for STEM Fund is more than halfway to its fundraising goal of \$2 million, providing scholarships and mentorship for women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields where they are underrepresented. Lisa McBride, Chair of the Women for STEM Council, couldn't be happier.

"When I was coming out of high school, I didn't have the financial support needed to go to university," says Lisa, Vice-President and Country Leader GE Hitachi SMR Canada. "It was a gift from my aunt and uncle that made it possible. I look at it as personal accountability to open doors for other women."

Three pillars underpin the support the Women for STEM program provides to women students:

- Scholarships for women in STEM fields of study.
- Mentorship and networking opportunities.
- Celebrating the achievements of women as innovators, entrepreneurs and change agents.

The Women for STEM program aims to fund 200 entrance scholarships and 600 in-course scholarships for Ontario Tech students over 10 years. Each year since 2019, the program has provided \$5,000 entrance scholarships to 20 women starting their STEM education at Ontario Tech, with another \$2,000 annually during their undergraduate careers as long as they continue to meet the scholarship's criteria each year.

In addition, as third-year students, they are matched with mentors who are role models and can offer career guidance as the students navigate their path from university to the working world.

Third-year Mechanical Engineering student Aisha Sarwar is one of many students who has benefited from the Women for STEM program.

"Ontario Tech's Women for STEM program has allowed me to meet and interact with women who have similar goals and aspirations," Aisha says. "I am very excited for the mentorship component of this program. It is uplifting to know that professionals within the industry will be here to give me support and insight into the real world of STEM. On behalf of all the Women for STEM students, thank you to all donors, Council members and mentors for your support and for making this program possible."

In February 2022, the Women for STEM Council hosted a Confidence Gap workshop for scholarship students and their mentors, designed to boost confidence and remind them that they are equal in talent and ability to their male counterparts. The inaugural event took place online, but plans are in the works to make it an annual, in-person event.

"It's important for these women to have confidence as they navigate their way in a male-dominated workforce," Lisa says. "Confidence is not just about being extroverted; it can be about getting out of your comfort zone."

"As a mature woman, I look back and wonder what my career would have looked like if I'd started working on confidence early."



Women for STEM 2023 Workshop.

Sorbara Group of Companies Continues Tradition of Giving

The Sorbara Group of Companies has a long tradition of giving in the communities they have helped build. Ontario Tech University has benefited as a result of the Homeward Hills community the Sorbara Group is creating in Oshawa.

“When we give, we think about the communities where we build,” says Christina Sorbara, Vice-President of Corporate Knowledge for the Sorbara Group of Companies, and Chair of the Sam Sorbara Charitable Foundation. “Employees and purchasers are aware when companies support the communities where they have a presence; we trust they feel a sense of pride in our approach.”

The Sorbara Group made a capital gift of \$1 million in 2022 to help the university continue to build and outfit high-tech facilities for its students. This generosity will be recognized by naming the lobby in the Software and Informatics Research Centre (SIRC) the Sorbara Family Lobby. SIRC is home to the Registrar’s office, a hub for campus tours, as well as numerous labs and classrooms equipped with the latest technology.

Prior to making the donation to Ontario Tech, Christina came to campus for a tour.

“I was blown away by the scale of the university, and the technology in SIRC seemed so advanced,” she says. “I toured ACE (Automotive Centre of Excellence) too, and I wanted to call everyone I know to tell them about it. There are a lot of firsts in the type of testing being done there. When I learn about something that is changing and advancing the world somehow, I like to share that information with others.”

“I was really inspired during my visit to Ontario Tech. There’s a real sense of energy on campus and I know I felt something special there. I look forward to getting my family out for a tour, and I thank Ontario Tech for partnering with us.”

The Sam Sorbara Charitable Foundation celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2023, and Sam’s granddaughter is justifiably proud of the support the Foundation continues to give to many charitable endeavours.

“My grandfather, Sam Sorbara, used to say that fortune and wealth are gifts life offers us so that we can share them with others,” says Christina. “We were raised to think about giving when we received, and, as Chair of the Foundation, I have the responsibility to think of the needs of others. It causes me to reflect on the work we do and the values of our companies. We have an obligation to others, whether we respond to needs corporately or as a family through the Foundation.”



Christina Sorbara, Vice-President of Corporate Knowledge for the Sorbara Group of Companies, and Chair of the Sam Sorbara Charitable Foundation.

Local Couple Invests in Higher Education

Durham Region residents Ed and Sylvia Vanhaverbeke remember the first shovels breaking ground for a new university in Oshawa. Ever since, they have been strong supporters of Ontario Tech University and are members of the university's E.P. Taylor Legacy Society.

"Although we don't live in Oshawa, we saw what a great asset Ontario Tech could be to the city," says Sylvia. "Oshawa has been struggling to find itself and the university gives it a focal point and a different face, as well as a cultural boost."

As parents of three children and grandparents to nine grandchildren, the Vanhaverbekes, who reside in Newcastle, thought it would be wonderful to have a university so close to home. Although their children did not have the option to attend university in Oshawa, Ed and Sylvia are hopeful one of their grandchildren will earn a degree at Ontario Tech.

"For a lot of people, having a university in Oshawa is the difference between going to university or not," says Ed.

Sylvia adds, "If you're already in the workforce and want to enhance your education, being able to go to classes at night is wonderful."

Sylvia speaks from experience, having returned to university at age 35. After earning a bachelor's degree, she went on to obtain a Master of Divinity, both achievements accomplished before Ontario Tech was built.

"I had to commute all the way to Toronto," she says. "As a mother, it would have been much more convenient to be able to attend university closer to home."

The Vanhaverbekes also see the need for a local university, simply based on demographics.

"This area is growing as fast as any other in the Greater Toronto Area," says Ed. "There's a real need for a university and Ontario Tech keeps expanding. Every time there's a new building, we're lucky enough to get a tour and it's a pleasure to see how it has grown."

In fact, most of the Vanhaverbekes' recent gift to Ontario Tech will be put toward capital projects, with a portion set aside for experiential education opportunities for students in the Faculty of Business and Information Technology. In thanks, the atrium of the building housing the faculty has been named the Vanhaverbeke Family Atrium.

"One of our grandkids was impressed by that, but it's not about our name on the wall—it's about contributing to the university to make it a better place," Sylvia says. "A lot of Ontario Tech students are first- or second-generation immigrants, and we're very empathetic toward the challenges they face. Supporting both education and immigration is important to us."



From left: Ed and Sylvia Vanhaverbeke.

Chancellor's Challenge: A Resounding On-campus Success

A run is more fun—and a walk, too—when it is done in the company of others. This was the sentiment expressed by many of the participants of the 2022 Chancellor's Challenge when they had the opportunity to enjoy the event on campus.

Mitch Frazer was appointed Ontario Tech University's fourth Chancellor on May 1, 2020. A strong supporter of students, Mitch created the Chancellor's Fund to address the university's most urgent priorities, including student financial awards, and set a fundraising goal of \$1 million.

In 2021, Mitch inaugurated the Chancellor's Challenge as an annual fundraising event to help meet this goal. Mitch pledged to run 7.2 kilometres—the distance between Ontario Tech's north and downtown locations—daily for four weeks, weather conditions notwithstanding. He invited family and friends to contribute to the campaign as he covered 380 kilometres in support of Ontario Tech.

The 2022 Chancellor's Challenge reshaped itself into a community event, the on-campus five-kilometre run/walk. More than 150 faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends and family accepted the Challenge.

Mitch himself led the pack as participants, cheered on by university mascot Hunter the Ridgeback, set out on a scenic route that looped around the university's north Oshawa campus location. After crossing the finish line, participants enjoyed a variety of games, interactive activities and refreshments.

The event raised almost \$80,000 for student scholarships and bursaries, which was doubled to nearly \$160,000 through the Board of Governors' Matching Fund.

"I just want to thank the entire Ontario Tech community for participating, for donating and for generally supporting this amazing event," says Mitch. "We've done remarkable work, fundraising to support amazing student initiatives."

"The students at Ontario Tech are the best in the world."



2022 Chancellor's Challenge.

Pi Day Infinitely Successful

Pi Day, Ontario Tech University's annual Day of Giving, boasted great success in 2022, raising more than \$156,000 for scholarships, bursaries and athletics. It also supported the Student Relief Fund, which provides assistance to students in many different ways.

The fifth-annual event took place on March 14, the date mathematicians, scientists and math lovers around the world celebrate the mathematical constant Pi (3.14). With its infinite number of digits, Pi represents the endless possibilities available to students at Ontario Tech.

Pi Day on campus is always a celebratory occasion. More than 400 mini pies donated by Algoma Orchards were handed out to students at Shawenjigewining Hall and the university's downtown Oshawa campus location. The university also hosted an online Pi Day Speaker Series, where interested listeners worldwide enjoyed Ontario Tech experts' talks on research topics such as ergonomics, a net-zero world, and Truth and Reconciliation.

The day's success was also made possible by Kemp Travel Group, an ongoing Pi Day supporter, and affinity partner Johnson Insurance, which matched all gifts made by faculty, staff, alumni and students.

"Initiatives like Pi Day are what give us, as Ontario Tech students, the hope that we will be able to reach our full potential," says Amrutha Elanko, Health Sciences, class of 2022. "These donations allow us the opportunity to put our skills into action and show the world our talents."



Graduates celebrating at Convocation 2022.



Pi Day 2022.

Retired Educators Support Learning with Bursary

Members of RTOERO District 28 in Durham Region—retired teachers and education workers—believe strongly in the importance of post-secondary education. They have created an Ontario Tech University bursary that allows students in financial need to pursue their academic dreams.

“We understand the valuable role post-secondary education plays in creating new opportunities,” says Aileen Fletcher, RTOERO District 28 President and Chair, Bursaries and Scholarships Committee. “We want to support students who have financial challenges that may be interfering with their continued education.”

RTOERO District 28 has supported Ontario Tech students with a financial award since 2012, but recently, approximately 3,000 members raised \$25,000 toward the bursary. The Ontario Tech Board of Governors’ Matching Fund doubled the impact of this permanent endowment. The bursary is available

to students from Durham Region enrolled in Health Sciences or Education programs of study, subjects that match the membership’s interests in healthy active aging and the power of community to secure a better future.

“The bursary aligns with what we’ve committed our lives and passions to,” Aileen says. “We’re very pleased by the generosity of our membership to come together and support the university in this way, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic and its challenges.”

“We hope that going forward we’ll have additional fundraising opportunities to increase our base investment. Being involved in this project was inspiring.”



Aileen Fletcher, RTOERO District 28 President and Chair of the Bursaries and Scholarships Committee.

A Classic Way to Honour Regional Chair’s Memory

Roger Anderson, the late Durham Regional Chair, was known as a decisive leader who always put the needs of residents and community members first. His priorities are reflected in the Regional Chair’s Classic, an annual golf tournament now held in his memory. The 24th edition of the tournament in 2022 raised \$290,000 for students in financial need at Ontario Tech University and Durham College, as well as for youth programs at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences.

“I can think of no better way to honour Roger Anderson’s memory than by coming together as a community for a day of camaraderie and fun, while also raising money for our students in need and for Ontario Shores’ invaluable youth programs,” says Regional Chair John Henry.

Deer Creek Golf and Banquet Facility in Ajax played host to the 2022 Classic. Dr. Steven Murphy,



From left: John Henry, Durham Regional Chair; Don Lovisa, President, Durham College; Dr. Steven Murphy, President and Vice-Chancellor, Ontario Tech University; Karim Mamdani, President and CEO, Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences; and Warren Anderson (Roger Anderson’s son).

President and Vice-Chancellor of Ontario Tech, was on hand during the evening for the post-event cheque presentation.

“Thank you to John Henry and the Region of Durham for continuing Roger Anderson’s legacy,” says Dr. Steven Murphy. “We are incredibly grateful for your generosity and vision.”

Since its inception, the Regional Chair’s Classic has raised more than \$7.2 million.

A Memorable Graduation Gift

When Cienna Ardellini graduated from Ontario Tech University in 2022 with a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours), her parents, Danny and Charlatta Ardellini, decided to give her a most unusual gift: an endowment that will provide student awards in Cienna's name.

"I thought about what we could give her to recognize her hard work," says Danny, a waste management executive. "We're very fortunate with our lives and giving back is very important to our family. Watches or jewellery are items you forget in a year. This is something you remember for the rest of your life."

"I was shocked; it's pretty amazing," says Cienna. "I like to help as many people as I can; not everyone gets that opportunity. It's nice knowing that I am helping someone with something as important as education, giving them a head start in life."

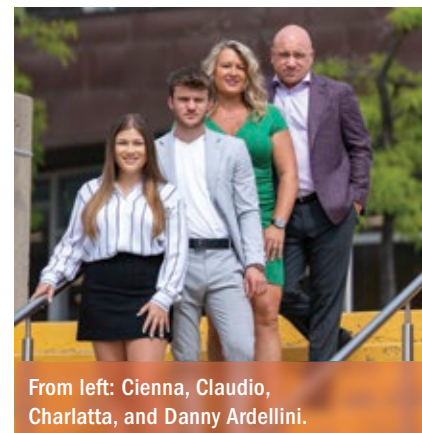
Thanks to the Ardellinis' generosity, the investment income generated through the Cienna Ardellini Endowed Fund will be used to provide an annual award to

business students within the Faculty of Business and Information Technology. The gift also included funds to provide bursaries for students in the faculty, including undergraduate and international student awards and a business award.

Cienna is a graduate of Ontario Tech's college-to-university transfer program, having previously earned a diploma at Durham College.

"I loved the culture of the university and the pace," she says. "I tell everyone about the program."

Cienna's enthusiasm may have sparked a new family tradition. In September 2023, Cienna's brother Claudio Ardellini also entered Ontario Tech's college-to-university transfer program.



From left: Cienna, Claudio, Charlatta, and Danny Ardellini.

Donors Celebrate Strong Ties to Education in Durham Region

Although Gary Edgar admits he preferred sports to the classroom during his high school years, he became serious about his studies during university. Gary went on to teachers' college and enjoyed a 30-year career as a physical education teacher with the Durham District School Board.

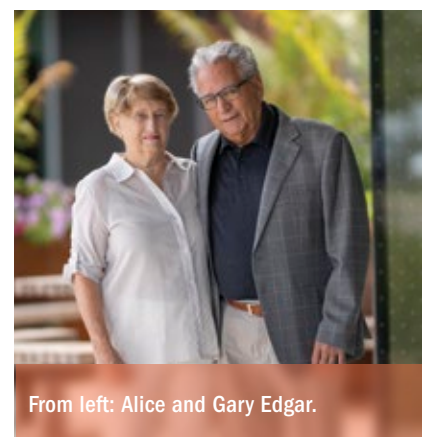
After retiring, he served as Chief of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation where he helped start Scugog Island's program to fund post-secondary education for First Nations students who maintained passing grades. He also helped ensure the First Nations community association supported Ontario Tech University and Durham College through the years. In 2014, he received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Ontario Tech.

Now, Gary and his wife, Alice, have started the Gary and Alice Edgar Endowment Fund at Ontario Tech, matched by the university's Board of Governors' Matching Fund, to help local students attend the

university. They have also supported the construction of Shawenjigewining Hall.

"Alice and I are in this together," says Gary. "We agreed on it; we've always been supporters of education. Supporting education in Durham Region allows local youth to live at home and still go to school, although we also want to lend support to international students—whoever qualifies. We believe everyone should support educational institutions if they can."

In recognition of this gift, the Peer Tutoring space in Shawenjigewining Hall now displays a plaque in their honour, inscribed, 'Generously supported by Gary and Alice Edgar.'



From left: Alice and Gary Edgar.

Aviva Canada Supports Innovation and Experiential Education

Supporting the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association's (APMA) Project Arrow, Canada's first zero-emissions concept vehicle, seems natural for insurance company Aviva Canada, because sustainability is a strategic pillar of its business.

"Sustainability isn't an afterthought for us," says Shilpi Singh, AVP Sustainability. "We are the first insurance company in Canada to commit to net-zero carbon emissions by 2040, but we can't reach a net-zero future alone. Project Arrow is very well aligned with who we are and what we do."

"We're so excited to be associated with Project Arrow as we see the positive news around it, especially with the debut of the Project Arrow vehicle at the 2023 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas and the Auto Show in Detroit."

As part of its new partnership with Ontario Tech University, Aviva Canada is supporting experiential education opportunities that make it possible for students to work on Project Arrow. Ontario Tech and ACE (Automotive Centre of Excellence) Climatic Wind Tunnel were hand-picked by APMA as the driving force for Project Arrow's Phase 2, leading the prototyping, building and testing of the concept vehicle. The car's debut solidifies Canada's place as a leader in electric vehicle technology and talent.

"Insurance companies had a unique role to play in encouraging the advances in electric vehicle technology, and Project Arrow fits so well into what Aviva is trying to do for Canada in general," Shilpi says. "It reflects our core values of care, community, commitment and confidence."

"As an employer, we know how important it is to invest in young talent and the next generation of innovators and big thinkers. Experiential education (EE) is a great way for students to build confidence and meet people from diverse backgrounds. We have a big internship program and we're happy to support Ontario Tech as they build their own EE programs."

Aviva Canada also provides funding for student entrepreneurial experiences that help promote the next generation of road safety and climate-responsive startup companies through Brilliant Catalyst.

"Ambition and innovation are important parts of fighting the climate crisis, so we want to push the journey forward," Shilpi says. "As an employer in Canada, it's important to invest in the education of future talent. We want to pay it forward. We're very proud to help young minds develop skills that relate to the auto industry and innovation through our partnership with Ontario Tech."



Dr. Ahmad Barari (right) with Ontario Tech University students in front of the Arrow inside the ACE Core Research Facility's Climatic Wind Tunnel.

George and Helen Vari Foundation's Legacy Continues

Although Helen Vari sadly passed away in 2023, the legacy that she and her late husband George created lives on. The couple, both born in Hungary, made Canada their home and chose education as the main philanthropic cause to benefit from their successful international real-estate development and construction business. They established the George and Helen Vari Foundation in 1984 to promote education and educational exchange. Their remarkable generosity has supported Ontario Tech University and its students.

In her husband's memory, Helen established the Honourable George Vari Endowment at Ontario Tech in 2016, providing annual bursaries to undergraduate Engineering students. The George and Helen Vari Foundation also provides additional awards to undergraduate and graduate Engineering students. To date, 23 Ontario Tech students have received financial support. A subsequent gift in 2022 increased the value of the endowment and made it possible to support five additional students every year.

In 2022, the George and Helen Vari Foundation also provided capital support for Shawenjigewining Hall. A plaque honouring the Foundation's name has been installed at the entrance to the building's Collaboration Centre.

Even before this connection was established, Ontario Tech recognized George and Helen Vari's commitment to post-secondary education and awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree to Helen in 2015. In her address, she accepted the honour in memory of her husband, saying, "George's belief was that education is essential to address our societal challenges and create a better world."

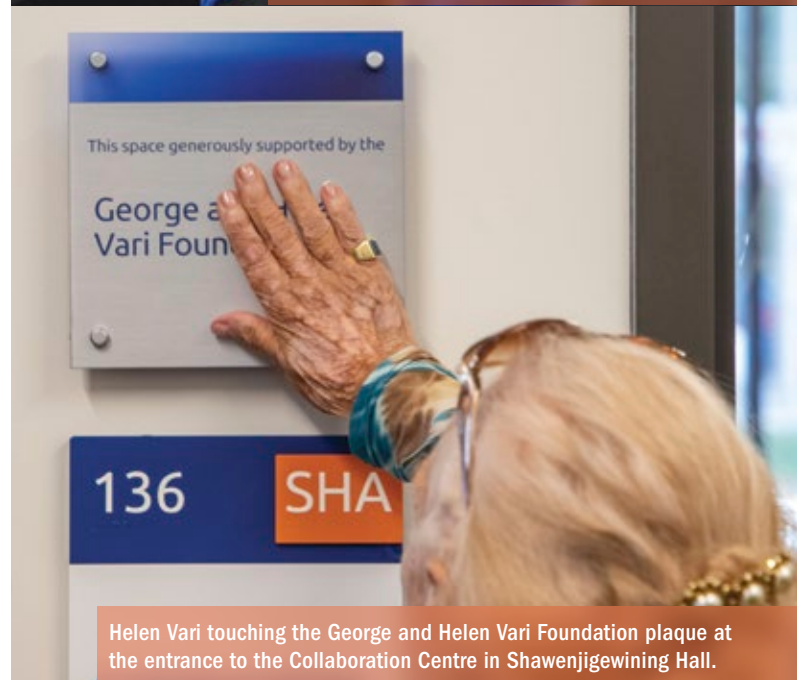
In recognition of her many contributions to post-secondary education, Helen received honorary degrees from six Canadian universities. She was named a member of the Order of Canada in 2016, following in the footsteps of her husband, who was inducted in 1989. In its citation, the Governor General's office said Helen received the honour "for her philanthropic and volunteer contributions, and for her extensive service to educational, cultural and social initiatives ... Her generous contributions to several universities in Ontario have advanced the pedagogy of students and helped to change the face of buildings in which students learn."

"George and Helen believed in students and their importance to our future," says Agnes Hilkene, Executive Director of the George and Helen Vari Foundation. "Ontario Tech University was a special place for Helen and she knew that the Foundation's support for the students was meaningful. She truly enjoyed her visit in the Fall of 2022 where she was able to connect with many Vari scholars while in the university's newest building, Shawenjigewining Hall."

"On behalf of Ontario Tech, I express our deepest condolences to Helen's family and her many friends," said Ontario Tech's President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Steven Murphy in a statement on Helen's passing. "She, and her husband, changed lives, and their compassion and generosity will forever live on in the students they support."



Helen Vari upon receiving her honorary doctorate degree from Ontario Tech University in 2015.



Helen Vari touching the George and Helen Vari Foundation plaque at the entrance to the Collaboration Centre in Shawenjigewining Hall.

| President's Message



Dr. Steven Murphy,
President and Vice-Chancellor.

Ontario Tech University's commitment to tech with a conscience and its experiential learning programs are gaining recognition; over the past three years, we have seen an increase in applications of 33.2 per cent, 19.4 per cent, and 11.7 per cent, respectively—and these increases are calculated each year using the new, higher baseline. In fact, the respected Times Higher Education rankings listed Ontario Tech among the Top 200 youngest universities worldwide. Clearly, our brand, programs and approach to education are resonating with today's students.

In 2022, Ontario Tech continued to shine in the classroom, research laboratories, and on the playing field. Of course, the strides we made received a helping hand from our many donors who are committed to polishing this jewel of educational opportunity in the Durham Region by supporting students, research, innovation and our campus community.

Ontario Tech is growing its footprint, and it includes downtown Oshawa. The Mitch and Leslie Frazer Faculty of Education relocated to Charles Hall and the university also acquired a parcel of land on Bruce Street for further expansion. At our north Oshawa campus location, Shawenjigewining Hall, our newest building, won an urban design award from the City of Oshawa. And as we grow, we do so with sustainability in mind: Ontario Tech again earned a gold rating in the North American Sustainable Campus Index.

Our research endeavours continue apace, and we are excited by the fruits of those labours. Inside the Innovation Garage at ACE (Automotive Centre of Excellence), for example, experts developed Project Arrow, a national endeavour to create the prototype for the first all-Canadian, zero-emissions electric vehicle. Canada's Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association (APMA) selected Ontario Tech as the lead academic institution for the build phase of Project Arrow, and the vehicle made its debut in January 2023 at the prestigious Consumer and Electronics show in Las Vegas. We believe in pursuing innovative research and bringing it to the marketplace. Partnerships make us all stronger.

Of course, our students continue to impress and delight us with their talent, perseverance and skill. For example, Health Sciences PhD candidate Jackie Brown was named the university's first-ever recipient of a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Doctoral Research Scholarship, while Emmeline Meens Miller, Master of Health Sciences (Kinesiology), class of 2023, won Ontario Tech's annual Three Minute Thesis (3MT) title and went on to become the university's first-ever provincial 3MT champion. Outside the classroom, the Ontario Tech Ridgebacks men's soccer team captured the Ontario Athletics East crown.

Our administration also shines. We congratulate Chancellor Mitch Frazer on his appointment to the Order of Ontario, and we are pleased that he has been reappointed Ontario Tech Chancellor for another term. We were also happy to welcome James Barnett to Ontario Tech in the role of Vice-President, Advancement in October 2022. I look forward to continuing to work with James to ensure Ontario Tech attains the philanthropic support required to support its bold vision.

I have shared with you only a small sample of our accomplishments, but, as you can see, Ontario Tech's future has never been brighter. Many of these outstanding milestones and accomplishments would not have been achievable without the tremendous help of our dedicated champions. An Ontario Tech champion can take many different forms, from donors, partners and volunteers to staff, faculty, students and alumni, and each plays an integral role in the future of our university. I want to thank each of our amazing champions, and I look forward to serving my second term as President ensuring Ontario Tech continues on this incredible trajectory. Together, let's reach for the stars.

Sincerely,

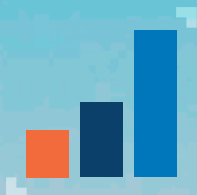
Dr. Steven Murphy, President and Vice-Chancellor

YOUR GENEROSITY SUPPORTED...

18% Student support

28% The university's capital needs

54% Our faculty, programs and athletics





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Students sitting outside of the Campus Library, Ontario Tech University.

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