

Media Release

For release: Feb. 17, 2012

Teacher creates musical legacy ***Bequest from Carol Leppert will support students at two schools***

Carol Leppert devoted her life to teaching in Wainfleet and Port Colborne. Her love of music inspired many, some of whom went on to follow in her footsteps and become music teachers. Her students fondly remember that she never started a music class without her infamous pitch pipe. Sadly Carol passed away last March, but her memory will live on at Winger School in Wainfleet and Steele Street School in Port Colborne through her generous donation to create endowment funds to support musical activities at both schools.

Through her bequest, the earnings on the funds annually will provide every student at both schools the opportunity to experience a live music or theatre performance. Each year one student from both schools will receive a bursary to the instrumental music program of the District School Board of Niagara. Any remaining funds will be used to maintain or replace musical instruments at the two schools.

“Carol was a mentor to many teachers across Niagara, and is fondly remembered by her former colleagues, students and parents,” said Bill Mozina, president of the Education Foundation of Niagara. “Her commitment to musical education continued after her retirement in 1993 as she continued to volunteer at both Winger and Steele Street schools on a weekly basis for several years.”

Carol was born and raised in Wainfleet and began her career at an early age as an elementary school teacher. She started at White Elephant School in Wainfleet, continued on to Winger School and retired from teaching while at Steele Street School. She was very active as a volunteer in the community and at her church. Many residents will remember her as a singer with the Robert Wood Singers and a volunteer with the Welland Fair, Wainfleet Fall Fair, Portal Village, Welland-Port Colborne Community Concert Association and the Marshville Heritage Festival.

Carol’s bequest was made to the Education Foundation of Niagara (EFN), which is working in partnership with the Niagara Community Foundation, as part of the EFN Planned Giving Program in support of DSBN Schools. These funds are part of the family of funds held in perpetuity by the Niagara Community Foundation.

Created in 2000, the Niagara Community Foundation has raised more than \$14 million and has granted in excess of \$4 million to charities working in the arts, heritage, environment, social services, health, education and community development. The Niagara Community Foundation works with donors wanting to create permanent legacies to support causes important to the donors during their lifetime. The donations to the endowments are never spent, but held in perpetuity with a portion of the annual earnings given to charities.

-30 -

Media contacts: Julie Densham, Executive Director, Education Foundation of Niagara 905- 641-2929 ext. 54104
Liz Palmieri, Executive Director, Niagara Community Foundation 905-684-8688