

EXTRA **2014 GOODFELLOWS' EDITION** EXTRA

**SPECIAL 60TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION 1954-2014**

Produced by



**DESIGN&PRINT**

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PLEASE, GIVE WHAT YOU CAN TO HELP.

**Chatham Goodfellows – Celebrating 60 years of helping local families in need**



***‘No Child Without a Christmas’***



# Don Strong Legacy with Chatham Goodfellows

Don Strong was the president of Goodfellows in 1959 and 1960, and Mr. Goodfellow in 1966. Don is one of the longest serving members of Chatham Goodfellows. Recently Don had the opportunity to reflect on his involvement with Chatham Goodfellows throughout the years.

In 1956, the Strong family moved to Chatham from Windsor after Purity Dairy purchased the former Kent Dairy. Don was appointed manager of the Purity Dairy Chatham facility. Don recalls, "before the paint was dry on his new VLA home on Faubert Drive", he was invited to become involved in Chatham Goodfellows by Clarence Faubert, who is now deceased. Back in the 50's, Goodfellows were better known as "The Old News Boys" in Detroit and Windsor.

The early years of Chatham Goodfellows were not without challenges. Funding was always a concern, the porchlight campaign did not do well initially as most people were not familiar with Goodfellows. However, the Capital Theater's "movie for a canned good" was a huge success. The movie was always sold-out. Don went on to say, "Preston Norton, owner of the Palmer Hotel/Motel in Windsor along with Kent County citizens, the McGeachy family, Reg Myers Family, Lyle Chapple Family and Henry Ford" assured the success of full funding of Chatham Goodfellows so that there would be "No Child Without a Christmas". Don added that Chatham Police detectives were the ones that completed inspections to qualify families to be recipients. The investigations were completed when the detectives were off duty.

Today the Board of Directors and volunteers of Chatham Goodfellows communicate through e-mail, instant messaging, and cellular telephone. Often times problems or issues are solved and resolved quickly. Don recalled that meetings were their only means to communicate during the early years. The Board would meet twice a month beginning in the early summer, and the meetings would continue until the campaign was concluded. But, he remembered Goodfellows having a special telephone just for Goodfellows, which was "taboo" back then.

Don has many fond memories with Chatham Goodfellows. He enjoyed delivering toy baskets late Christmas Eve after the children were already asleep. He recalled the sheer generosity of the people of Chatham. One Christmas Eve a woman called and said she did not receive a food basket. Goodfellows did not have any spare food baskets, so he called the local manager of the A&P Store. The manager opened the store and provided a "special" food basket for the woman, at no cost to Goodfellows. One Christmas, Mr. Kasier called Goodfellows to pick-up a cheque. A volunteer retrieved the sealed envelope and Don opened the envelope and found a cheque for \$500.00, which was needed that year.

Don said he knew that Goodfellows would always survive. The people are always very giving during the Christmas season, especially the people of Chatham-Kent. Over the years



**Don Strong and his son Rob Strong 2014**

Goodfellows have had the support of prominent citizens, successful businesses, service clubs and the general public, and it is still happening today. Chatham Goodfellows would have never seen this 60th year of "No Child Without a Christmas" without the devoted and faithful volunteers.

## President's Message

Chatham Goodfellows is preparing to begin our 60th year of ensuring "No Child Without a Christmas". We had a humble beginning in 1954, a few volunteers worked tirelessly during the first Goodfellows campaign to provide food and toys for a slightly over 100 families in the City of Chatham.



Today over 1500 volunteers will raise funds, donate, pack and deliver food and toys for over 1400 families in Chatham and the former townships of Chatham, Dover and Harwich, as well as partnering with the Merlin Legion to provide for those in need in the Merlin area.

The Williston family have been involved with Chatham Goodfellows for parts of seven decades, Chatham Goodfellows is important to my family and me, and it is an honour for me to serve as the President of Chatham Goodfellows during our 60th anniversary.

The Chatham Goodfellows motto, "NO CHILD WITHOUT A CHRISTMAS" resonates as much today as it did 60 years ago. We will continue to provide food and toy boxes for those families in need at Christmas time to ensure that there will be "No Child Without a Christmas".

As we celebrate Christmas this year, we once again ask the citizens of Chatham-Kent to consider donating to ensure there will be "No Child Without a Christmas". Have a safe and joyous Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Scott Williston**  
*President Chatham Goodfellows*

# Goodfellows Presidents

(\*denotes deceased)

E.J Vickers* - 1958	Don Strong - 1959 - 1960	John Lowrie* - 1961	E.J. Vickers* 1962
Alex Feldman* - 1963	Bernie Jones* 1964	Dick Macdiarmid* - 1965	W.I. Preston* - 1966-67
Ron White - 1968 -69	W.I. Preston* 1970	Ted Willmore* - 1971-72	Ray Dorland* - 1973
Tom Bird - 1974	Jim Anderson - 1975	Bill Harper - 1976	Tom Bird - 1977-79
Nels Somerset - 1980-82	Ray Martin - 1983-85	Bill Denike - 1986-87	Bill Preston Jr. - 1988
Don Roskamp - 1989-91	Fred Osmon - 1993-94	Cal McCabe - 1995-97	Phil Williston 1998-00
Robb Vincent 2001-02	Mike Weedon - 2002-04	Tim Mifflin - 2005-10	Scott Williston 2011-

## Tim Mifflin Mr. Goodfellow 2014



Tim Mifflin receives the 2014 Mr. Goodfellow award from Scott Williston, Tim Haskell and Rose Reseski.

At the Goodfellows’60th Annual General Meeting on November 6, 2014 President Scott Williston announced that Tim Mifflin was Mr. Goodfellow for 2014.

The Mr./Mrs. Goodfellow Award is presented annual to an individual who embodies the spirit of the organization. Goodfellows distributes food and toys to needy families in greater Chatham at Christmas time. Tim has been involved with Godfellows for 34 years, he is a past president of Chatham Goodfellows and remains actively involved in the organization, sitting on the Board of Directors. Tim is the Director in-charge of media and advertising; he assists with toy and food packing, the porchlight and street sales campaigns.

Tim joins the ranks of the most prestigious and well-earned Mr. Goodfellow Award – Mr. Goodfellow 2014.



## Message from Mayor Hope

As Mayor of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, it is my pleasure to recognize the Chatham Goodfellows and the celebration of the organization’s 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Thank you to all of the members who have continuously dedicated their time and efforts to support our community.

The members work tirelessly during the season through door-to-door campaigns, toy drives and paper sales to ensure “**No Child is Without a Christmas**”.

Congratulations on celebrating this significant milestone. The tremendous support of the Chatham Goodfellows is sincerely appreciated by everyone in the community.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy R. Hope'.

Randy R. Hope, Mayor /CEO  
Municipality of Chatham-Kent



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# Former Mrs./Mr. Goodfellows Enjoy Goodfellows’ 60th Annual General Meeting



Former Mrs./Mr. Goodfellows recipients left to right Cal McCabe, Marv Merritt, Ted Hunter, Murray Aiken, Phil Williston, Mary Williston, Judy Bagley, Fred Osmon, Tim Haskell, Don Strong, Craig Williston, Rose Peseski, Rocky Schram, Kathy O’Neill, Ron White.

1961 – Joseph Emmitt*	1962 – Blair McKinnon *	1963 – Archie Stirling*	1964 – Jay Vickers*
1965 – George Parry*	1966 – Don Strong	1967 – Dick Macdiarmid*	1968 – Bill Preston*
1969 – Ron White	1970 – Clarence Faubert*	1971 – Earl Glover*	1972 – Shirley Ward
1973 – Jack Diord	1974 – Mr. & Mrs John Schuur *	1975 – Clare Bagnell*	1976 – Bud Vincent*
1977 – Vi Millar	1978 – Bernie Jones*	1979 – Tom Yako*	1980 – Ted Willmore*
1981 – Tom Bird	1982 – Ray Dorland*	1983 – Nels Somerset	1984 – Verna Lindsay*
1985 – Ray Martin	1986 – Robert Trinnear*	1987 – James Benoit*	1988 – Phil Williston
1989 – Al Demerling*	1990 – Earl Peifer*	1991 – Bud Arnold*	1992 – Kathy O’Neill
1993 – Bill Denike	1994 – Don Roskamp	1995 – Fred Osmon	1996 – Margaret Grin*
1997 – Robb Vincent	1998 – Stewart Sinclair	1999 – Ted Hunter	2000 – Cal McCabe
2001- Brian Preston	2002 – Jane Arnold*	2003 – Marv Merritt	2004 – Mary Williston
2005 – Lynda Anderson	2006 – Murray Aiken	2007 – Judy Bagley	2008 – Leonard Casier
2009 – Fran VanOirschot	2010 – Tim Haskell	2011 – Craig Williston	2012 –Rose Peseski
2013 – Rocky Schram			

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# President Award



For the past 60 years Chatham Goodfellows has operated as a totally volunteer driven agency. Christmas food and toy boxes are provided to people in need in Chatham and the former townships of Chatham, Dover and Harwich, as well as partnering with the Merlin Legion to provide for those in need in the Merlin area. In order to succeed, we have and continue to rely on long term commitments from small and large companies, service groups, organizations and individual volunteers.

Over the years students and staff of St. Clair Catholic District School Board, and Le Conseil scolaire de district des écoles catholiques du Sud-Ouest, and Lambton Kent District School Board have demonstrated an on-going commitment to Chatham Goodfellows assisting with annual porchlight drive, street sales, toy and food packing and delivery, toy and food fund raising, creating advertisement and photographs. Students and school staff are a vital part of the annual operation of Chatham Goodfellows.

It is important to understand this collective effort created a community of practice within the schools. By creating this community of practice, the School Boards, school staff and students have instilled the importance of life long philanthropy.

During the first 59 years of operation, Chatham Goodfellows have recognized and honored many with the certificate awards, the President award and the Mrs./Mr. Goodfellow award.

On this, the 60th anniversary of Chatham Goodfellows, the President's Award is awarded to the past and current students, and school staff of;

**CHATHAM KENT SECONDARY SCHOOL,  
JOHN MCGREGOR SECONDARY SCHOOL,  
URSULINE COLLEGE CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL,  
ECOLE SECONDAIRE DE PAIN COURT,  
CHATHAM CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL,  
McNAUGHTON AVENUE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
JOHN N. GIVEN PUBLIC SCHOOL  
GEORGES P. VANIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL,  
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL,  
OUR LADY OF FATIMA CATHOLIC SCHOOL,  
MONSIGNOR UYEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL,  
ECOLE ST-PHILIPPE, ECOLE STE-MARIE,  
GREGORY DRIVE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
INDIAN CREEK ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL  
KING GEORGE VI PUBLIC SCHOOL  
ST. URSULA CATHOLIC SCHOOL,  
WINSTON CHURCHILL PUBLIC SCHOOL**



**Will Ebare sings Christmas carols at the 60th Annual General Meeting.**

## Goodfellows' Code

Goodfellows follow a simple code  
It's helping the chap who's bearing a load.  
It's bringing a smile to a youngster's face,  
Restoring his trust in the human race.  
It's sharing the warmth of year-end joys,  
With thousands of worthy girls and boys.  
It's helping the young and old to know  
That someone cares when ill winds blow.  
It's smoothing the way when the road is rough.  
It's understanding a neighbour's plight,  
And caring enough to do what's right.  
It's living again the ancient law  
When the Good Samaritan came and saw,  
And did not pass on the other side  
But offered his hand, a friend to guide.  
This, in the Goodfellows' Code is writ:  
The best of life and the worth of it  
Is not, how much can I get for me  
But what I have done to be neighbourly.

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# The Williston Family Story – How it all began.



When asked if one person can make a difference, Mary Williston will say that one person, her husband Phil, really does made a difference.

The Williston family legacy with Chatham Goodfellows began in 1959 when Phil invited Mary on a date to #1 scout hut to prepare gently used toys for Chatham Goodfellows. Mary’s first job was painting a red wagon in need of a coat of red paint. By Mary’s own admission, she was hooked not only on Phil but on Goodfellows. Before long Mary and Phil were married, and the Williston legacy with Chatham Goodfellows was born. Phil was recognized as Mr. Goodfellow in 1988, he served as the Goodfellows President from 1998 – 2000, as well as serving on the Board of Directors for several decades. Mary was recognized as Mrs. Goodfellow in 2004. “Pay it Forward”, is the motto and foundation of the Williston family. Over parts of seven decades and four generations of the Williston family along with many friends, they have knocked on doors, packed groceries and toys and delivered them to ensure they have done their part that no child goes without a Christmas. These days while Mary and Phil act on more of an advisory role with Goodfellows, their sons, Scott and Craig have taken on leadership roles with Chatham Goodfellows. Scott is entering his fourth year as the President and Craig, the 2011 Mr. Goodfellow recipient, is entering his third year on the Board of Directors.

# Certificate Award Presentations



Ron Peseski receives a certificate award from Rose Peseski and Tim Haskell



Michelle Balun Ritchie receives a certificate award from Rose Peseski and Tim Haskell



Tracey Travis receives a certificate award from Rose Peseski and Tim Haskell



St. James Presbyterian Church receives a certificate award from Linda Haskell and Judy Bagley.



Anita Scott receives a certificate award from Tim Mifflin



Helen Williston receives a certificate award from Kevin Shaw and Scott Williston



Lisa Deturck receives a certificate award from Rose Peseski and Tim Haskell



Deb Mifflin receives a certificate award from Rose Peseski and Tim Haskell



Don Kiekens receives a certificate award from Rose Peseski and Tim Haskell



Dillon Consulting receives a certificate award from Rose Peseski and Tim Haskell



# Lovell Family Story



The Lovell Family donate \$400 to Goodfellows Scott Williston and Rose Peseski.

Dana Lovell shared her father's compelling story at the 60th Chatham Goodfellows Annual General Meeting. Dana said that she was very fortunate while growing up, her father Scott was a career member of the Canadian Military and she and her siblings were fortunate not to ever need assistance from Chatham Goodfellows. However, her father, Scott Lovell was not as fortunate. He was one of nine children growing up in Chatham with very little. Her father did not remember Santa as a big jolly man delivering presents, but rather "men in winter clothing" delivering toys to he and his and sisters and brothers. Scott has an indelible image of the members of Goodfellows delivering toys to him when he was a young boy.

Today the Lovell family "Give Back". Each year Scott and his wife give their children and grandchildren money for Christmas. The Lovell family including the grandchildren, Karli Lovell-MaccMullin, Ayden, Conner, Logan, Ashton, Kaiden, Ryleigh and Stella Lovell donate the money to Chatham Goodfellows so that there will be "No Child Without a Christmas". This year the Lovell family grandchildren donated \$400.00 to Chatham Goodfellows.

## Key 2014 Campaign Dates

- November 6 – 60th Annual General Meeting, Spirit and Life Centre (the former St. Joseph Auditorium 6:30 pm.
- November 10 – Goodfellows office opens at the Spirit and Life Centre, Telephone 519-354-1146.
- December 1 – Porchlight Campaign from the Spirit and Life Centre beginning at 5:30 pm. Contacts Dawn Allott, Judy Bagley and Craig Williston.
- December 8 – 11 – Toy packing from 6 – 8 pm, Sunnen Guspro, Grand Avenue East. Contacts Rose Peseski and Tim Haskell.
- Toys will be delivered on Wednesday, December 17, 2014.
- December 12 and 13 – Street Sales. Contacts Marv Merritt and Mark Kloostra.
- December 17 and 18 - food packing, Spirit and Life Centre. Contacts Scott Williston, Kevin Shaw and Bonnie Regnier.
- December 5 – last day for applications.

Applicants are asked to call for food or toy baskets themselves. Referrals are not necessary. Goodfellows investigates applicants to ensure there is a need for assistance. All applicants are cross-referenced with the Salvation Army and other area groups who provide Christmas hampers to ensure there is no duplication. Applicants are asked to be home, or have someone at their home on the evening of December 17th for toy delivery and on December 18th from noon on to accept the food baskets.

### Toys and food can be dropped off at the following depots:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • SunMedia (Chatham Daily News & ChathamThisWeek) | • Riverview Bingo Palace                  |
| • CanadianTire                                    | • Rona Cashway                            |
| • Heritage Savings & Credit Union                 | • ScotiaBank Branches in Chatham          |
| • Food 4 Less, 470 St. Clair St.                  | • Staples                                 |
| • LCBO - St. Clair Street                         | • Blackburn Radio (CFCO, CKSY & the Rock) |
| • LCBO -Wellington Street                         | • The ChathamVoice                        |
| • Maple City Residence                            | • TD CanadaTrust Branches in Chatham      |
| • Pennington's                                    | • Tepperman's                             |
| • RCSS (Real Canadian Super Store)                | • Van Kestern Hyundai •Winners            |

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# History of Goodfellows

Since 1954 Christmas in Chatham has been a little happier for some local children and families in need. That's when Chatham Goodfellows embarked on its campaign to ensure there's "No Child Without a Christmas". Through donations and volunteer efforts, the Goodfellows have helped brighten many on Christmas morning ensuring there are toys for children and food for a holiday meal.

The idea was first born in Detroit in 1914 when the old Newsboys aimed to help the needy. Founded in 1914 by James J. Brady, the organization includes 300 members whose sole mission is to ensure that there is "No Kiddie without a Christmas." Each holiday season the Detroit Goodfellows distribute holiday gift boxes to children ages four through 13 living in Detroit, Highland Park, River Rouge, Hamtramck and Harper Woods. Today Detroit Goodfellows will provide for 35,000 children. Windsor adopted the initiative in the early 1950's, and today Windsor provides for over 5,300 families. Chatham Goodfellows emerged on November 2, 1954. The late Dick Macdiarmid recalled how the one-year old Sertoma Club was looking for a community project. Macdiarmid and Jay Vickers – who hailed from Windsor – were a part of a small group that visited the Windsor Goodfellows and borrowed \$2,000 to begin the local effort. The Chatham group operated under the Windsor Goodfellows for the first year. Ron White added that he received an unsolicited call from the late Henry Ford who was hunting with friends in Dover Township. Mr. Ford donated thousands of dollars to the Chatham Goodfellows campaign. White said, "He didn't want anyone knowing about it". White said, "for a good number of years he gave \$1,500 to \$3,000". Macdiarmid, the inaugural president of Chatham Goodfellows said, "We were greeted with open arms". The donations flowed allowing the group to provide 190 large and 117 small food boxes and toy baskets to area residents in need. The group asked area churches and groups who had distributed some food baskets in the past to discontinue their efforts and allow the Goodfellows to help.

Over its 60-year history the Chatham Goodfellows along with other service groups have provided Christmas to the less fortunate. Applicants from Chatham and the former townships of Chatham, Dover and Harwich are cross-referenced on a daily basis with the

Salvation Army local churches and agencies to avoid duplication. Chatham Goodfellows have a long-standing partnership the Merlin Legion/Kinsmen to provide for those in need in Merlin, Dealtown, North Buxton and the former Township of Raleigh. Applicants from the other areas of Chatham-Kent are directed to the appropriate service clubs in their area.

Distribution of the first Chatham Goodfellow newspaper, produced by the Chatham Daily News, garnered more than \$800 during the first Porchlight Campaign.

The group had so few volunteers, that they went door to door collecting donations over several nights. The Chatham Goodfellows were also able to repay the \$2000 to Windsor in its first weeks of operation. By comparison Chatham Goodfellows 2013 Porchlight campaign raised \$35,928.00 in one night.

In the early years Goodfellows used beer boxes to pack the food and toys. In a 2004 interview, Dick Macdiarmid said some people criticized them for that but, he added, "it was a good donation as far as we were concerned". Ron White added, "We did everything ourselves in those years – we only had a handful of people", adding they collected donations, investigated applicants to ensure there was a need and purchased and packed the food and toys.

In the initial days, used toys were donated and repaired. There were wooden toys, bicycles – the firefighters collected any used parts and refurbished bikes for the children – and used dolls that were cleaned up and dressed in new clothing.

When it came to packing and distributing the food and toys, the same people spent two days doing most of the work.

The late Jane Arnold and Phil Williston recalled how local Scouts assisted with repainting and fixing toys over the years. Goodfellows also hosted an annual kiddie show where all the children were invited to come out to the Centre Theatre and watch a show, the admission was a canned good. All the children were sworn in as members of Goodfellows, Ron White added.

Local bowling alleys were on board in the early days hosting "penny a miss". All the funds collected went to Goodfellows.

Much has changed over the years, including Goodfellows numbers which has grown from a handful of volunteers to hundreds of volunteers today.

While only about 200 baskets were distribut-

ed in the 1950's more than 1400 food baskets and toys for 1100 children, costing well over \$100,000, were distributed last year. Similar numbers are expected this year.

The late Bernie Jones commented during the 50th Goodfellows campaign, volunteers come from all walks of life – police, firefighters, businessmen, professionals, and labourers. More recently, high school students in need of their community hours to graduate have been helping – and many have been coming back even after they've completed their required hours. Today each director has their own group of volunteers who assist with knitting, porchlight, street sales, as well as food and toy packing and delivery.

During the first 60 years of operation, thousands of volunteers from Chatham Goodfellows have helped thousands of families. Despite the growth and success of Chatham Goodfellows, the premise has always been the same – "No Child Without A Christmas". As Chatham Goodfellows begin their 60th campaign and look to the future, the need is greater now than it has ever been. Today those in need are not centred in one area of the community, the need transcends all areas. However, the one constant is that Chatham Goodfellows is always ready to help needy families at Christmas to ensure there is "No Child Without A Christmas". (files from the Chatham Daily News)



**Local MPP Rick Nicolls address the audience at the 60th Annual General Meeting.**

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