

# EXTRA 2017 GOODFELLOWS' EDITION EXTRA

63rd Anniversary Edition 1954-2017

Produced by



## DESIGN & PRINT

PRICE PER COPY: WE LEAVE IT TO YOUR GENEROSITY, ALL DONATIONS COUNT TOWARD A MERRY CHRISTMAS FOR EVERYONE  
PLEASE, GIVE WHAT YOU CAN TO HELP.

**Chatham Goodfellows – Celebrating 63 years of helping local families in need**



# *‘No Child Without a Christmas’*



# Lifetime Achievement Award



**Mary and Phil Williston and family receive the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award from Chatham Goodfellows.**

In 1954 Chatham Goodfellows embarked on its campaign which had a simple motto, “No Child Without a Christmas”. Through donations and volunteer efforts, the Chatham Goodfellows have helped to brighten Christmas morning for thousands of people ensuring there are toys for children and food for a holiday meal.

During the 1950’s Chatham Goodfellows modest budget of a few thousand dollars provided boxes of food and toys to approximately 200 families in Chatham. This year, the 63rd year of operation, the Chatham Goodfellows budget of well over \$150,000 will provide boxes of food and toys for over 1400 families in Chatham, the former townships Dover, Chatham Harwich, and Raleigh as well as Merlin in partnership with Merlin Legion.

Since 1954 Chatham Goodfellows has seen the need rise along with the budget. One constant that remains, Chatham Goodfellows is a volunteer organization that depends totally on volunteers to sit on the Board of Directors, purchasing goods, organize events, raise funds, collect, pack, and deliver toys and food.

Volunteers are vital to Chatham Goodfellows success. In recognition for their work, volunteers are rewarded with a hot bowl of soup, sandwich, hot drink and a sweet treat. In addition, the Chatham Goodfellows Board of Directors recognizes volunteers with Certificates of Appreciation, volunteer businesses with President’s Award, and the coveted Mrs. /Mr. Goodfellow Award.

## 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.

In 2016 the Chatham Goodfellows Board of Directors introduced the “Lifetime Achievement Award” to recognized individuals or organizations who;

- Provide no less than 25 years of continuous service
- Extraordinary philanthropy by an individual or organization
- Continues to encouraged the development of leadership among staff, colleagues or family
- Is an inspiration to others, displaying professionalism, a consistently positive and motivating attitude, and demonstrating ongoing respect for others
- Has inspired, shared and developed a vision for the future for development of philanthropy
- Is a good citizen that contributes to the well-being of the Community

Each year Chatham Goodfellows Board is tasked to determine if there is a worthy recipient. Chatham Goodfellows are blessed with dedicated long-term volunteers. We are grateful. After long deliberation, the recipient of this years’ Chatham Goodfellows Lifetime Achievement Award is the Williston Family.

In 58 years, the Williston family has fundraised, collected, packed and delivered food and toys for the less fortunate in Chatham-Kent.

Phil’s tireless work and dedication was recognized in 1988 when the Board of Chatham Goodfellows bestowed Phil with the prestigious “Mr. Goodfellow” award. Phil provided leadership to the Chatham Goodfellows Board of Directors for over 5 decades, and he served as President 1998-2000.

Mary Williston recalled her first date with Phil in 1959 before Christmas. Phil invited Mary to #1 Scout hut in Chatham to paint a red wagon so the wagon could be delivered to a child at Christmas. As Mary said, this is when the Williston legacy began with Chatham Goodfellows. In 2004 Mary was the recipient of the Ms. Goodfellow Award.

Mary and Phil’s active involvement with Chatham Goodfellows while impressive and compelling is not their only remarkable achievement. Mary and Phil along with other early Chatham Goodfellow Board members encouraged a community of practice by giving back through volunteering.

This community of practice carried through to Mary and Phil’s children, Cynthia, Scott, Craig and their extended family. The extended Williston family and all three children were active with Chatham Goodfellows through the years.

While Cynthia no longer lives in Chatham-Kent, Scott and Craig along with their 7 children and 8 grandchildren carry on the Williston legacy. The children and grandchildren are the stalwart members of the Williston porchlight, street sales teams. The Williston family fill vital roles in toy and food packing as well as deliveries. Williston Family members have received over 15 Chatham Goodfellows certificates of achievement over the past 39 years.

Scott replaced Phil as a member of the Board in 2003, and from 2011-2016 Scott was the President of Chatham Goodfellows and in 2015 was the recipient of the Mr. Goodfellow Award. Scott remains an active Board member managing food packing and delivery.

Craig was the recipient of the 2011 Mr. Goodfellow Award and in 2013 Craig was invited to join the Board. Craig manages the Porchlight Campaign.

Mary and Phil now take on an advisory role with Chatham Goodfellows, but their garage is still used at Christmas time to store and organize non-perishable food.

The influence of the Williston family is compelling; combined the family has over 450 years of service to Chatham Goodfellows. The Williston Family is a worthy recipient of the Chatham Goodfellows Lifetime Achievement Award.


## President’s Message

I am proud to be the President of Chatham Goodfellows. We are a volunteer organization with a simple motto, “No Child Without a Christmas”.

I have volunteered with Chatham Goodfellows since 1978. Jane and Bud Arnold, who were long-term volunteers with Chatham Goodfellows brought me every year to help with toy packing. I remember Jim Benoit, the Chairperson of toy packing teaching me what it took to be a Goodfellow. In 2005, I was invited to join the Board of Directors of Chatham Goodfellows as the co-chairperson of toy packing, I was honoured. I have a definitive appreciation of Chatham Goodfellows. When I was a child my family were recipients of Chatham Goodfellows generosity. My father died just prior to my birth. My mom work very hard to look after our family, we did not have much money, and times were tough. As a child I can remember Chatham Goodfellows delivering a large box of toys and food to us. One year my brother and I received hockey sticks for road hockey. I still recall the aroma of fresh apples, oranges and minty rock candy when the food box was delivered. We were grateful, we always had plenty of food for the Christmas Holidays.

A great deal has changed over the years. My mother joined the Chatham Goodfellows Board of Directors in 2014, together we give back every year. I regret that Jane and Bud Arnold, my Grandparents and Jim Benoit are not here to see me as President of Goodfellows, however I look forward to continuing their community of practice of giving back to the community.

When our annual campaign begins, I look forward to seeing all of our current and future Goodfellows.



*Tim Haskell,  
President Chatham Goodfellows*



## Connie Mardling Ms. Goodfellow 2017



**Chatham Goodfellows Board members Rose Peseski, Scott Williston, Tim Haskell and Tim Mifflin present the 2017 Ms. Goodfellow award to Connie Mardling.**

The recipient's involvement continued to evolve to include volunteering with street sales and food delivery. Our recipient was always striving to increase donations on porchlight and street sales each year. Once the recipient entered the workforce, vacation days were always booked around the Chatham Goodfellows key dates. Once our recipient was old enough to drive, mom and dad's vehicle was used to deliver toys and food.

25 years later our recipient continues to volunteer in all aspects of Chatham Goodfellows. Our recipient is one of the first volunteers to arrive for toy packing and one of the first to deliver toys. The recipient is a mainstay for porchlight and street sales canvassing. The recipient is always cheerful, bright and full of Christmas spirit.

The food packing and delivery directors rely on our recipient to lead the way packing small boxes. Our recipient delivers at least 100 boxes of food each year.

The recipient for this year is a valued member of Chatham Goodfellows. The Board recognizes that our recipient is like many Chatham Goodfellows, she chooses to be unpretentious, wishing not to seek the "limelight". It is important to the Board to demonstrate our profound gratitude to our recipient for her undying work and support to Chatham Goodfellows to 'Ensure No Child Without a Christmas'.

Chatham Goodfellows Board would like to bestow our appreciation by honouring Connie Mardling as Ms. Goodfellow 2017.

Each year the Chatham Goodfellows Board of Directors Executive Committee has to make the difficult decision of choosing the Mr. /Mrs. Goodfellow. It is a decision that is not taken lightly. The Chatham Goodfellows Executive Committee is guided by the simple code that is printed every year in the Chatham Goodfellows newspaper.

The final stanza of the code accurately describes the recipients for 2017; "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".

Our 2017 recipient began volunteering with Chatham Goodfellows as a youngster working on the porchlight

## Dedicated to Former Goodfellows



**Brent Preston**



**Thelma Mifflin**

## President Award



**Larena Parkhouse and John Harden of the Real Canadian Superstore received the President's award from Chatham Goodfellows President Tim Haskell.**

This year's President's Award winner is the Real Canadian Superstore (RCSS), a valued community member and vital supplier to Chatham Goodfellow's for well over 20 years.

Each year Chatham Goodfellows have a monumental task of packing between 1400-1600 10 kg - 20 kg boxes of food beginning at 8 am. Each food box contains a turkey or ham, potatoes, carrots, non-perishable food, milk, candy, fruit, dessert and rolls. At 12 noon the food boxes are packed and ready for delivery.

The planning begins in September each year. Chatham Goodfellows work closely with the dedicated staff of the Real Canadian Superstore to secure competitive food prices, coordinate orders and delivery of perishable and non-perishable food. On the day before food packing and delivery, the committee begins preparing the Spirit and Life Centre for the event. Real Canadian Superstore staff work closely with the Chatham Goodfellows to coordinate delivery of non-perishable food

items to the committee at the Spirit and Life Centre. The following day very early in the morning, just before food packing begins, RCSS staff coordinate the delivery of perishable food to the Spirit and Life Centre.

The on-going coordination is critical to the success of food packing and delivery; there is no room for error since several hundred volunteers are prepared to pack the food boxes at 8 am, and several hundred volunteers and vehicles are prepared to deliver the food beginning at 12 noon.

For over 20 years the RCSS staff has demonstrated undying commitment to Chatham Goodfellows to ensure their goal of "No Child Without a Christmas" is met each year. Real Canadian Superstore staff also provides on-going support to Chatham Goodfellows during toy packing, fund raising as well as Santa's Day Off. Chatham Goodfellows depend on the dedication of businesses, organizations and citizens to volunteer and help brighten the Christmas morning for those in need, and to ensure that "No Child Without A Christmas". The Real Canadian Superstore is one of those dedicated businesses that Chatham Goodfellows have depended on for well over 20 years.

Chatham Goodfellows is honoured to present the Staff of Real Canadian Superstore with this year's President's Award.



## Message from Mayor Randy Hope

Year after year, members of the Chatham Goodfellows dedicate their time and energy to ensuring there is no "No Child Without A Christmas." They organize, canvass and collect donations through the Porchlight Campaign, newspaper sales, toy drives and other events, so that gift baskets with food and toys can be delivered to those in need throughout Chatham-Kent.

On behalf of Council, I would like to thank the Chatham Goodfellows for all their hard work and dedication. Their efforts of campaigning have resulted in many families celebrating the holiday when they may not have been able to otherwise.

A sincere thank you to the generous citizens of the community; your continued support of the Chatham Goodfellows during this busy time of year is in the true spirit of the season.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday!

Sincerely,

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

On behalf of Chatham-Kent Council:  
Mark Authier, Michael Bondy, Darrin Canniff, Joe Faas, Bryon Fluker, Karen Herman, Leon Leclair, Brock McGregor, Carmen McGregor, Bob Myers, Steve Pinsonneault, Derek Robertson, Doug Sulman, Trevor Thompson, David VanDamme, Frank Vercouteren, Jeff Wesley.





# Certificate Award Presentations



Lorraine McIntosh, Evan Melillo, Jennifer Nicholas, Katelyn McIntosh – part of the group of eight receives their certificates from President Tim Haskell.



2017 Certificate recipients with Chatham Goodfellows Directors Craig Williston, Tim Haskell, Rose Peseski, Linda Haskell, Judy Bagley, and Scott Williston



Chatham Goodfellow Director Linda Haskell presents a certificate award to Josephine Richardson while Director Judy Bagley looks on.



Christopher Osborne, Tristan McLain, and Jesondra Osborne receive certificates from Food Packing and Delivery Directors Bonnie Regnier, Scott Williston and Kevin Shaw.



Dillon and Brandon Morton receive certificate awards from Directors Tim Haskell and Rose Peseski.



Judy Bagley presents a certificate award to Janet Taylor, while Directors Craig Williston and Tim Haskell looks on.

## Key 2017 Campaign Dates

- Goodfellows office at the Spirit and Life Centre Wellington Street West Chatham is open November 6th; Monday – Friday; 9am to 3pm at 354-1146.
- Last day for names December 1, 2017
- Porchlight is on Monday, December 4, 2017 at Spirit and Life Centre. Chairpersons - Craig Williston & Judy Bagley.
- Toy Packing 6pm to 8pm December 11 to December 14, 2017 at 463 St. Clair Street (the former Fabricland building next to Dimitar's). Delivery date is Tuesday, December 18, after 5:30. Chairpersons - Rose Peseski & Tim Haskell.
- Street Sales are being conducted on Friday, December 15 and Saturday, December 16. Chairpersons - Marv Merritt, Rocky Schram and Mark Kloostra .
- Food packing is at Spirit and Life Centre (St. Joseph Site), with set up on Monday December 18, and packing/ delivery on Tuesday December 19 – packing beginning at 8am – deliveries beginning at 1pm . Contact Scott Williston.
- Our website is [chathamgoodfellows.ca](http://chathamgoodfellows.ca)

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 20th after 5:30 for toy delivery and on December 21st from noon on to accept the food baskets.

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

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| • Blackburn Radio                        | • Holiday Inn  | • Riverview Bingo   | • The Chatham Voice                     |
| • Canadian Tire                          | • Honda House  | • Rona Cashway  | • The Wish Centre                       |
| • Chatham Daily News/Chatham This Week)  | • Hub Creative Group                                 | • Scotia Bank (Queen Street, King Street West and Thames Lea Plaza) | • Whittall & Company 43 Victoria Avenue |
| • Chatham Retirement Resort              | • LCBO (Wellington Street West and St. Clair Street) | • Staples   | • Winners                               |
| • CIBC (St. Clair Street Merritt Avenue) | • Maple City Residence                               | • TD Canada Trust (St. Clair Street, King Street West)              | • YMCA                                  |
| • Food 4 Less                            | • Pennington's Thames Lea Plaza                      | • Tepperman's   |   |
| • Heritage Credit Union                  | • Real Canadian Super Store                          |   |   |