

75 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN ST. THOMAS

Callon Dietz



Andrew Gunn, Trustee for Dorothy Palmer Estate

Andrew Gunn has been the administrator for many philanthropist missions around London and Elgin County. His time as a philanthropist began nearly five years ago when a friend of his by the name of Dorothy Palmer passed away. Dorothy and her husband John were long time Alymer residents working

and donating to schools, hospitals, parks, and libraries around the region. Upon Dorothy's death in 2010, her dear friend Andrew Gunn was named the trustee of her estate. Since then, Andrew has continued to contribute funds to a number of different projects in and around the city that would have been near and dear to Dorothy's heart like education, healthcare, and the arts. Aside from his time as trustee, Andrew also works as a regional advancement coordinator for Fanshawe College's St. Thomas campus, where he helped open a renewable energies lab and a welding lab.



One-on-One with Andrew:

Q: *How does it feel being chosen as one of the most influential people in St. Thomas?*

A: I was quite surprised to be honest to receive notice on this. Really, any influence that I have is the result of other people in the community and beyond who are being helpful and generous with their time and helping me along the way. I have had the opportunity to meet a lot of extraordinary people.

Q: *What are some your favourite projects you have contributed to?*

A: One of the main contributions has been to the Children's Hospital in London in conjunction to the Children's Health Foundation. Locally, there are lots of different projects. I would point to the John & Dorothy Palmer Youth Library at the St. Thomas Public Library, which has been a real success. We have

also given support to the Princess Avenue Playhouse and Elgin Theatre Guild. A nice donation has also been to the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority for improvements to the spring water forest.

Q: *You are in a position where you get to do a lot of good. How does that make you feel?*

A: It is really a credit to lucky life circumstances. I have had the pleasure to know very interesting and very generous people. Through the Palmer Estate I have got to meet a lot of people in the community. I think of Liz Brown at Violence Against Women who does an amazing job with her team. The opportunity to get involved with services like that has been extremely satisfying. It all goes back to Dorothy Palmer and the legacy she left behind.

Q: *Where do you see yourself in five years?*

A: I have no idea. I can tell you that this community means a lot to me. You start projects and you work hard to try and make things successful and you see how they come about. I am hopeful that things I am working on right now that may not look too ambitious; in five years time will be able to add more resources and amenities in the community. St. Thomas has the opportunity to be one of the great locations for families to locate.