

Commemorative Naming of Springhurst Park

Barbara's imprint is all over Ottawa

Barbara McInnes worked tirelessly to enhance philanthropy in Ottawa and beyond for almost four decades. She built community with exceptional dedication. A leader in philanthropy and community development, Barbara was an inspiration to many. She brought energy and excitement, balanced with wisdom and intelligence to every endeavor she was a part, always with good humour and a generosity of spirit. The legacy that she built will continue to live on throughout our city. Barbara was a force for good. She developed new avenues and partnerships that enabled generous citizens to invest in their community.

A woman of energy, verve and vision, Barbara served her community, all while spreading her upbeat brand of civic-mindedness.

Perhaps even more significant than her accolades, incredible career and service achievements is how Barb inspired, supported and mentored people throughout her career. Barbara launched many novice donors on their philanthropic paths; coached and mentored a generation of community leaders; supported countless organizations and represented Ottawa and Canada on national and international stages.

She was tireless in her devotion to making Ottawa the best it could be.

Barb might have been petite, but she was never short of vision and leadership. While the Ottawa Community Foundation was a central part of her legacy, she also served as a founding director of Community Foundations of Canada for 13 years. Her international interests include extensive work with the US-based Council on Foundations with memberships on their Leadership and Strategic Planning Committees, as well as the Trans-Atlantic Community Foundation Network.

In recognition of the breadth and depth of her work at all levels, Barb was inducted as a Member of the Order of Canada in 2010.

An enduring memory of Barbara for many is of her often dancing down the hallways of offices in Ottawa with joy and abandonment.

**Barbara McInnes, C.M.
September 29, 1943 – July 1, 2021**

Barbara McInnes helped her father Alastair Gamble, and Gordon Henderson launch the Ottawa Community Foundation in 1987, then took over its leadership four years later and built it into one of Canada's most highly respected and largest community

foundations, with assets of \$100-million and grant disbursements of over \$6 million annually by the time she retired in 2014. Barbara guided the organization for 27 years, building it as a leader among Canada's 191 community foundations.

Barbara was a founding Board member of Community Foundations of Canada and served on its Executive Committee for 13 years. She mentored six new Canadian Community Foundation CEOs during their first year on the job. She worked extensively with community foundations in North America and Europe, freely sharing her expertise and knowledge of organizational development and donor engagement.

Internationally, Barbara was a member for 13 years of the Transatlantic Community Foundation Network, dedicated to assisting the growth of community-based philanthropy in Europe and Mexico. She was also actively involved on several committees of the Council on Foundations in Washington, D.C. including the board's strategic planning committee.

Barbara was a frequent speaker locally, nationally and internationally on various philanthropic and community-based topics. She contributed a chapter to *Local Mission: Global Vision*, published in September 2008 by the Foundation Centre in New York and now available in four languages.

Barbara retired as President & CEO, Community Foundation of Ottawa in February 2014

Involvements After Retiring

- Shorefast Foundation, Board Member and Chair of the Governance Committee
- TELUS Friendly Future Foundation, Chair of the Ottawa Community Board
- PAL Ottawa, Advisory Committee
- Compassionate Ottawa, Advisory Board

Involvements Before Retiring

- Refugee 613, Founding Board
- National Arts Centre Foundation, Governance and Nominating Committee
- Ottawa Philanthropy Awards, Co-Chair Selection Committee
- Impact Hub Ottawa, Board Member
- Women in Philanthropy Conference, Chair
- Chair, Ottawa Grantmakers' Forum
- The Learning Partnership, Ottawa Advisory Committee
- Ottawa Poverty Reduction Steering Committee, Co-Chair
- Transatlantic Community Foundation Network, Member
- Ottawa Estate Planning Council, President
- Carleton University, Board of Governors and Member of the Senate
- Co-founder, Leadership Ottawa and Ottawa Chamber of Voluntary Organizations
- Education Foundation of Ottawa, Honorary Advisory Board

- Peter F. Drucker Canadian Foundation for Innovation, Chair of the Selection Committee
- City of Ottawa's Arts Advisory Committee, Member
- Ottawa School of Art, Chair of the Board
- Margaret Atwood Gala, a fundraiser for the Ottawa Public Library, Chair
- United Way Ottawa, Board and Executive Committee member and Chair, Allocations and Agency Relations Committee.

Awards:

- Order of Canada, 2008
- Opera Lyra Ottawa, gala honouree (with husband) for support of the arts
- 2014 Volunteer Ottawa Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2012 Key to the City (presented to the Community Foundation)
- 2012 Recipient, Drew Shouldice Award, Ottawa Estate Planning Council
- 2010 Recipient, Quality of Life Award, St. Joe's Women's Centre
- 2009 Ottawa Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Awards, Bronze winner
- 2004 Community Service Award, Academy of Medicine Ottawa
- 2001 Volunteer of the Year, Volunteer Ottawa
- 1998 Alastair Gamble Memorial Award for Excellence in Canadian Community Foundations
- 1997 Ottawa Philanthropy Award for Outstanding Fundraising Executive
- 1998 – 2009, various Wilmer Shields Rich Awards for communications
- 1991 President's Award, United Way of Ottawa.

Education:

BA (hons) in Philosophy, Carleton University, Ottawa.

Laurentian High School , Ottawa

Personal:

Barbara lived most of her life in Ottawa, the community she loved and was privileged to serve. From the age of 10 to 13, she and her family lived in France where she developed lifelong friendships.

Married in 1963 to Glenn, she shared a deep interest in contemporary Canadian art and together they donated several hundred culturally significant pieces to the Ottawa Art Gallery, Carleton University, the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, the National Gallery of Canada and Art Gallery of Alberta among others. They are proud parents of two daughters, Leah Eustace and Emily McInnes and grandparents of Devon and Simon Eustace and Gideon Gallivan.