

Endowment Giving – make a *Lasting Difference*

For the past three weeks the two minute talks have been about **weekly giving**, the **memorial fund** and **fund raising events**, these focus on short term needs. Today's topic is endowment giving, it is about sustaining Wilmot's work in the long term.

Traditionally endowment gifts to Wilmot came from bequests, the funds were invested and the interest was directed to activities specified by the donor. The donors usually had a long history with the congregation, but in the past 20 years or so, most endowment gifts have been unrestricted— the council, the trustees and the congregation then make decisions about how gifts may be best used. The two largest gifts in the past have been from relative strangers to Wilmot. Today, besides bequests in a will there are now bewildering options, insurance policies, beneficiaries of RIFs and RRSPs, gifts in kind and so on. Today many endowment gifts are made long before a will is read so the donor can see and participate in the results.

Endowment giving is intentional giving...the donor knows where the funds are going and may even specify their use. You, as a donor, can make choices and make a lasting difference. Without this intention, the result is unintentional giving...involuntary giving to the tax collector, federal and provincial. Through intentional giving, you may be able to reduce a tax burden of 25 to 50 per cent on your heirs and make a lasting difference to the work of Wilmot.

Endowment giving may require professional advice and consultation with your family. It should be part of your financial plan. With such a plan **you** can make a lasting difference.