

# Life Newsletter

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**Flag bearers:** George Diavolitsis and Angelica Theocharis

**His Eminence Metropolitan Archbishop Sotirios** visited our Community on Saturday November 9, 2013 and celebrated the Sunday liturgy on Sunday November 10, 2013. He had a meeting with the Board of Directors and received an update of our Community programs and progress. We were honored by his presence.

## Community General Assembly for nominations: Sunday November 24, 2013

A notice to the members is sent separately inviting the membership to attend this very important General Assembly, for nominations of members to stand for elections for the Board of Directors for the years 2014 and 2015.

Even though this is not a civic election but rather an election of volunteers to run a charitable non profit organization, many parallels can be drawn from what Aristotle had to say. The concept of "citizen", and therefore "active citizenship", was born in ancient Greece in the context of "the city". According to Aristotle, a citizen, "by simply not making himself available to be assigned to a position by others, neither is he taking part in the process of judgment and authority" he is a scoundrel citizen, i.e. a useless citizen because he does not take part in the social civics. Such a heavy critique shows how important it was at that time to be involved.

It is equally important to be involved and participate in our Community today, either at the Board level, or simply as a volunteer in the many committees and subcommittees we have running the Community. Volunteerism is a basic expression of human relations. Relates to the need of individuals to participate and feel that they are important for their fellowmen. Volunteering is guided by values of solidarity, reciprocity, mutual trust and empowerment, all of which contribute significantly to the quality of life.

Volunteer to keep and maintain our heritage, volunteer to maintain our family values, volunteer to maintain our faith, volunteer to maintain our language and teach it to others. Volunteer and embrace all those who join us through marriage and through friendships.

Volunteer and give back to the Community and to our society in general. It will make you a better person.

**The Hellenic Community Centre** expansion has began with the help of matching funds of \$500,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The construction is expected to finish in March 2014.

## Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Community of London & Vicinity

**The Iconography phase II**, in the altar area is now complete. We thank all the individuals and families who donated towards this project. Our church needs your support and even though a family can not donate funds for an entire icon, you can donate a lesser amount into the general iconography fund. We have now selected a plan for the iconography Phase III, which is the dome area of our church. Donations and pledges are accepted for this phase and you may contact father Elias or the Community office to select an icon that you would like to donate, or to simply contribute to the iconography fund in general. We truly have a magnificent church, please support it, it is for you, your children, and your grand children and for the future generations to come.

We bring to your attention another method for your donations which is not widely used.

### Donating shares of a public company to a charity

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Many have not considered the option of donating publicly traded securities to a charity. This is a very tax-effective and smart alternative to traditional methods of donating cash. Structuring your charitable donations in a tax-effective manner can provide you AND your charity considerable benefits.

#### The Rules

Traditionally, the disposition of shares will result in a capital gain whereby the fair market value of the shares at the time of disposition is in excess of its original purchase price. There are, however, exceptions to this rule where eligible capital property is donated to a registered Canadian charity. By definition, *eligible capital property* includes securities, such as shares listed on prescribed stock exchanges, as well as mutual fund units. The tax impact of donations of eligible capital property result in the capital gain reduced to nil so that the disposition of the security to the charity is fully exempt from capital gains tax.

#### Things to consider

In order to receive this favorable treatment, it is imperative that the security be donated directly to the charitable organization. For example, selling the security in the open market and donating the cash would not qualify for this preferred tax treatment as it will result in a capital gain on disposition. By donating the shares directly to the charitable organization, the charity still receives the full benefit of the value of the share and at the same time, the donor pays no tax on the disposition and receives a charitable receipt for the fair market value of the share. This can result in significant tax benefits for those with charitable intent.

#### Example

For 2013, the federal credit is 15% on the first \$200 of donations claimed in the year and 29% on the amount in excess of \$200. The example illustrated below assumes the donor is taxed at a top marginal tax rate of 46%.

		Sale of shares and cash donation	Donation of shares
Value of shares/Donation	A	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Cost base of shares	B	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Capital gain	C = A-B	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Capital gain inclusion rate	D	50%	0%
Taxable capital gain	E = C * D	\$ 4,000	\$NIL
Tax on capital gain	F = E * 46%	\$ 1,840	\$NIL
Donation tax credit	G = A * 46%	\$ 4,600	\$ 4,600
Net tax savings	H = G - F	\$ 2,760	\$ 4,600
Net after tax cost of donation	A - H	\$ 7,240	\$ 5,400

**Net Advantage of donating \$10,000 of shares - \$7,240 - \$5,400 = \$1,840**

#### Processing the donation

Making your donation is very simple. Once you have made the decision to make your gift we can accept investment certificates and can also assist you in the transfer of securities from your current investment account. With the help of BMO Nesbitt Burns, one of Canada's largest full-service investment firms, we are committed to making the process seamless. Contact us and we will direct you to a qualified professional who will assist you in facilitating your donation.