

Over the past two decades, Carolyn Barker Brown has been a cornerstone of the CFDC of North & Central Hastings and South Algonquin. Starting as a youth intern, Carolyn's dedication, curiosity, and client-first approach have carried her into her current role as Loan Officer, where she now manages one of the largest investment portfolios in Canada.

What sets Carolyn apart is her ability to balance organizational goals with a deep commitment to people. "It's all about the client," she says, a motto that shines through in her work every day. Known for her fairness and empathy, Carolyn ensures each client feels heard and supported, taking genuine interest in both their successes and challenges.

Colleagues describe her as thoughtful, conscientious, and always willing to listen. She not only delivers results but also helps shape the culture of her office, bringing professionalism, positivity, and a spirit of continuous improvement. Her dedication to lifelong learning is evident in her recent completion of Trent University's Non-Profit Management Essentials Program, just one of many ways she has expanded her skills over the years.

"Carolyn has been an amazing team member for the past 20 years," says Executive Director Mary Lynn Rutledge. "I am constantly impressed by her performance, her willingness to help others, and her empathy in a world where cynicism is often the standard. She is a fantastic ambassador for the Community Futures Program."

During the height of COVID-19, Carolyn's resilience was especially evident. She took on the demanding delivery of the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) with determination and grace, navigating challenges with confidence while maintaining her trademark optimism.

Beyond her professional role, Carolyn's creativity also shines. She has a passion and talent for interior design, which she shares with clients through the Retail Makeover program, helping small businesses enhance their spaces and thrive.

We're proud to recognize Carolyn as a Community Futures Champion. Her thoughtful leadership, dedication to clients, and enduring impact on her community exemplify the very best of the Community Futures network.

Thank you, Carolyn, for all that you do.

