In celebration of Bath’s bicentennial, a group of local women have launched a campaign to preserve the township’s historical and environmental legacy for the next 200 years and beyond.

The goal of the “200 Years – 200 Women” campaign is to raise $250,000 for the Bath Community Fund by encouraging area residents to donate $1,000 or more in honor or memory of a special woman in their lives. Each woman honored will receive a card informing her a gift was made in her name, though the amount will not be disclosed. Donors who give at least $1,000 will receive a pin in recognition of their support.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for husbands to honor their wives, siblings to pay tribute to their mother or grandmother, fathers to recognize their daughter or ladies to celebrate a dear friend or mentor,” said Kathy Sidaway, an organizer of the campaign and a board member of BCF. “It also gives neighborhood groups and worship circles the chance to recognize a notable woman in our community during this bicentennial year.”

Bicentennial committee makes requests

The Bath bicentennial committee is looking for an in-kind donor to assist with marketing the remainder of the township’s bicentennial events. Fliers, signs and a designed gala program book are needed. Contact Debbie McKinney at 330-338-3893 if interested.

The committee also needs help in two other areas:

• Providing suggestions for five items from 2018 to include in a time capsule.
• Collecting names and addresses of original township descendants or those who have lived in the township for several generations.

Sponsorships are still available for events. Find details at bathcelebrates200.com/sponsors-and-donations. ∞

From l-r, sisters Pat Fitch, Mary Anne Krejci and Nancy Fay wear commemorative pins after donating to Bath Community Fund’s 200 Years - 200 Women campaign. Photo by K. Sidaway

Sidaway said the first gifts to the campaign were from three sisters with deep roots in Bath. The Fulton sisters – Nancy Fay, Mary Anne Krejci and Pat Fitch – are lifelong residents of Bath and decided together to leave a lasting mark on their community.

“We had been talking about ways we could make an impact in Bath for a while now, and the bicentennial seemed like the perfect time,” Fay said. “All three of us grew up in Bath, raised our families here and made a living here, so we wanted to do something to give back. This was a way we could honor our relationship as sisters while preserving the community we love for future generations.”

Donations to the campaign are tax-deductible and support BCF’s “For Bath, Forever” endowment campaign, which aspires to raise $2.018 million by the end of 2018. Donors and the women they honor will be recognized on the fund’s giving pyramid.

Created in 2014 by a group of Bath residents, BCF is a permanent endowment that supports programs that preserve Bath’s historical and environmental legacy, enhance the local arts and culture landscape, serve youth through education and recreation and meet residents’ social service needs.

With an endowment of more than $2 million, the fund will be able to grant at least $100,000 to nonprofits in Bath every year, forever. To date, BCF has invested nearly $30,000 into local causes that enrich the quality of life for residents.

For more information about BCF, visit bathcommunityfund.org or contact Jody Miller Konstand, advisory board chair, at 330-618-4477 or jmkmedia@msn.com.

To donate to the 200 Women campaign, visit akroncf.org/200Women or contact Nancy Fay at the Bake Shop in Ghent at 330-666-3347. ∞