



# FOUNDATION FOCUS

SUMMER 2023

ABOUT US >



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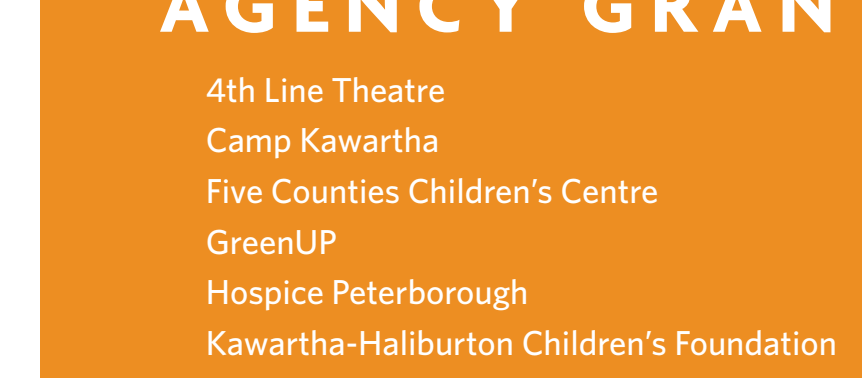


### CELEBRATING: AGENCY GRANTS

The Foundation welcomed several local charities to the Trinity Centre on June 19 to celebrate their many accomplishments during a time when many charities have seen client needs increase and donations decrease.

"One of the unique features of the Community Foundation," says Jennifer DeBues, Executive Director of the Foundation, "is that we offer charities a way to establish agency funds with the Foundation that provide a long-term source of revenue and a home for bequests and other donations from supporters. This is especially helpful to a sector where every extra dollar counts."

All the organizations that received grants are supported by dedicated funds at the Community Foundation as part of their long-term sustainability planning. Several hold what are called **Agency Funds**. They trust the Community Foundation to invest and steward these funds to benefit their organization over the long-term. Others are the beneficiaries of **Agency Designated Funds**, which are created by donors who believe strongly in the mission and vision of the particular charity they wish to support. Fund holders were asked to share what they are doing to engage with clients, donors, and supporters in new ways.



JENNIFER DEBUES, ALEXANDER CANNON, & DONNA LYNN CLARKE (PHOTO BY: WAYNE EARDLEY)

Andy Cragg, Executive Director of the New Canadians Centre said, "We benefit from volunteers; we have more than 250 who are amazing and make a huge impact but the other side of that is we now help our clients take on volunteer roles in the community. It's one of the best ways to help them integrate into the community and live the values of the New Canadians Centre, which is a vibrant and inclusive community where people who are new to Canada thrive and are valued."

Jacob Rodenburg, Executive Director of Camp Kawartha said his organization works to instill hope in young campers by helping them to "bear witness to sustainability in action." He also asked, "How can we bring nature back to our built spaces? How can we empower and activate kids to do something good for the environment instead of just reducing their harm? It's a message we need to shout a little more loudly and have places that demonstrate good in action."

At the conclusion of the Community Celebration, the Foundation convened it's annual general meeting where it welcomed four new board members: Rachel DeGreef, Suzanne Galloway, Cody McMahon, and Thomas Street (more below). They also celebrated Jennifer DeBues' tenth anniversary at the Foundation.

### AGENCY GRANT RECIPIENTS

- 4th Line Theatre
- Camp Kawartha
- Five Counties Children's Centre
- GreenUP
- Hospice Peterborough
- Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Foundation
- Kawartha Land Trust
- Kawartha Youth Orchestra

- New Canadians Centre
- Otonabee Conservation Authority
- Peterborough Field Naturalists
- Peterborough Historical Society
- Peterborough Symphony Orchestra
- Telecare Peterborough
- YMCA of Central East Ontario
- YWCA Peterborough-Haliburton

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### CONNECTING: NIIBING N'KWESHKODAADIDAA

In response to the discovery of unmarked graves at the former residential school in Kamloops in 2021, the Community Foundation decided to establish, and fund, a reconciliation program based on learning and building relationships.

Reconciliation is a participatory process. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 2015 report notes that at "the community level, where contact between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples is often minimal or marred by distrust and racism, establishing respectful relationships involves listening to, and learning from, each other; building understanding; and taking concrete action to improve relationships." (1)

Within that context, Jennifer DeBues, Executive Director of the Foundation began to meet with leaders of several local Indigenous organizations. Last November, she invited them to enjoy a "virtual cup of tea" together and discuss how they might want to make decisions around using the available funds. The group quickly coalesced around the idea of planning an event together.

"It started with the idea that we (Indigenous organizations) needed to do something together to celebrate Indigeneity," says Angela Connors, Executive Director of Nijikiwendidaa Anishnaabekweewag Services Circle. "This was what I was hearing in the community, that could be done annually. During those conversations we realized that because of COVID community was really missing the opportunity to socialize in person. This became the focus."

Ashley Safar, Executive Director of Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre concurs, "We eventually decided to collaboratively host a series of summer events. During the pandemic, we had limited ability as a larger community to connect with one another and we felt the timing was right to get back to that collaborative, community engagement. A few more people and virtual cups of tea later and Niibing N'weshkodaadidaa came to be."

Held on June 22, Niibing N'weshkodaadidaa (Let's meet and greet this summer) took place at the courtyard of Peterborough Square. Hosted by the Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre, Nijikiwendidaa Anishnaabekweewag Services Circle, Lovesick Lake Native Women's Association and First Peoples House of Learning, the day saw many community members gather to drum, dance, make crafts, enjoy free corn soup, scones, dogs, and strawberries, as well as just being together in a welcoming space.

When asked what she hopes comes next, Angela Connors answered, "I hope that local Indigenous organizations begin to coordinate their efforts and work more collaboratively together. I hope that the community (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) have more opportunities to come together, share stories and build relationships. I hope that we build on this event and have community looking forward to this type of social event where folks don't have to worry about the cost of food, entertainment or resources in order to attend."

(1) Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future. Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015), p. 307.



ANGELA CONNORS (PHOTO BY: MATILDA DEBUES)

DONATE TO THE VITAL COMMUNITY FUND >

### FINAL REPORT: STOPGAP DROP-IN CENTRE

The StopGap overnight drop-in centre launched on January 16 to provide a warm space for people experiencing homelessness in Peterborough. The program ran every night of the week, from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., and provided access to washrooms, snacks, staff support, and survival gear.

Over the past four months, an average of twenty-nine guests stayed in the program space for five or more hours each night, while nine more guests waited outside. In total, 229 unique individuals accessed the program from January 16 to May 1. On at least twenty-one nights, more than thirty unique individuals could not access beds in Peterborough's shelters.

Beyond providing shelter from winter weather, the StopGap program operated as an access point for many people in need of community resources. Staff advocated for guests to gain admittance to shelter and made over 322 referrals to connect guests to programs including health care services, food programs, social services, and more.

The StopGap program also saw harm reduction as well as its mandate and distributed harm reduction supplies, as well as training guests on safe drug use. Emergency services were called sixteen times over the duration of the program, with ten calls made on behalf of guests based on emergent medical needs, and six calls were made as part of an overdose response.

Over the course of its four months of operation other challenges emerged. Six restrictions were given to StopGap guests for disruptive behaviour, verbal harassment, and physical violence with the longest being for two nights. Police were called seven times to support the resolution of conflicts between guests. Nevertheless, most guests reported feeling welcomed and supported by staff who were able to mitigate violence without the use of security guards or bag checks.

Ultimately, the Stopgap program provided a warm space and support during the coldest months of the year for people experiencing homelessness and unable to access shelter due to capacity issues or other barriers. StopGap staff made referrals and connected guests to the resources they needed most. Harm reduction supplies and training was made available at night when guests were at their most vulnerable.

The insights gained by One City Peterborough and the other agencies involved in the Emergency Winter Response program in four short months of operating the StopGap program serves to underscore the urgent need for permanent, sustainable, and holistic housing supports in Peterborough.

READ THE FULL REPORT HERE >

### SPOTLIGHT: JOHN MARTYN

Retired educator, John Martyn, is a familiar figure in Peterborough's lively charitable sector. After 36 years teaching and consulting, he's spent nearly as long dreaming up a better, more inclusive Peterborough and working very hard to see that it happens.

John, along with Nora, his wife of 58 years, is an original member of the Peterborough Theatre Guild. He also volunteered as a trainer for Telecare Peterborough on issues of poverty and housing; began work in housing in 1985 at the request of a friend that resulted in the formation of Kairos, a non-profit housing corporation supporting single mothers leaving abusive relationships; assisted in forming Homegrown Homes, a non-profit affordable housing project; is the original chair of the Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network; (he's their current vice president); in 2010 he helped form the Mount Community Centre (he's also their current vice-president); is a founding board member of the Community Foundation; and is currently engaged in developing the Trinity Centre as a community asset for PPRN.

To say that John has done a lot for his community doesn't quite cover it!

Born and raised in Peterborough, John Martyn left to study at the University of Toronto and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education before embarking on a four-year teaching stint in Northern Ontario. He came back to his hometown in 1963, married Nora, taught at St. Peter Catholic Secondary School, and raised two sons, Gregory and Michael who now have children of their own.

When asked why he has worked so tirelessly for the community, John answered, "One of my operating principles is that when the community needs it, governments follow."

To that end, John formed a non-profit charity called the Peterborough Affordable Housing Foundation (PAHF) in 2007 in order to address the then burgeoning crisis of housing affordability. "I hoped that the community would donate to the foundation and funds would be available to develop genuine affordable housing," he said. "The PAHF received even though I had to begin its work but, unfortunately, I did not have the knowledge and skills to make this work even money. The City attracted several talented individuals to form the board."

That's when the idea of rolling the PAHF into a new Community Foundation came into focus.

"It seemed clear that a community foundation could be a possible answer to my hope that a community could come together to support and fund important social issues." John said. "I invited the chair of a newly formed foundation in Guelph that was having considerable success to visit Peterborough to explain how their foundation works to Bill Lockington, Sue Ditta, Beth McMaster, and the ever-faithful Helene Lowry. That eventually led to the incorporation of the Community Foundation, forming the board and then hiring its first executive director, Andrea Dicks."

When asked why he's worked so tirelessly in "retirement" as a community volunteer, John said, "Peterborough is my home; it has given me the resources to live a good life. Especially, as a retired person since 1995, I have been fortunate to be able to use my time to volunteer in the areas of community life that are important to me. One of the most significant motivators has been seeing first hand the suffering of individuals and families caused by the inadequate responses of governments to fully understand and address the extent of the needs of the community and at the same time hosting the generosity of caring citizens rising to the occasions of need."

DONATE TO THE HOUSING FUND >

### NEW INITIATIVE: VOLUNTEER PETERBOROUGH

Volunteer Peterborough (VP) is a grassroots organization started by a small group of Peterborough-area residents that want to "refresh" the community and its volunteer spirit by serving as a bridge between those looking to engage in volunteerism and those that need volunteers.

An Ontario Non-profit Network survey conducted between April 2021 and March 2022 revealed that non-profits organizations are facing a "relentless HR and volunteer crisis." They need support. That's why Volunteer Peterborough has engaged a network of partners to build a sustainable recruitment model that makes it easy for organizations to post opportunities and potential volunteers to find exactly what they're looking for.

Volunteer Peterborough has engaged a network of partners to kickstart a newly energized volunteer movements based on recruiting, training, retaining, and celebrating volunteers. Partners include: the Chamber of Commerce, Age-friendly Peterborough, Trent University's CareerSpace, 4th Line Theatre, Community Care, Showplace Performance Centre, Fleming College, New Canadians Centre, and the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough.

Together, we will reignite the spark that inspires people to step up and help others in their community.

#### FAST FACTS

- 74% of non-profits saw increased demand for services in 2022, up from 2021 & 2020
- 62% of organizations have lost volunteers
- More than half face difficulty recruiting new volunteers and 40% cannot convince previous volunteers to return

VOLUNTEER PETERBOROUGH'S WEBSITE WILL LAUNCH ON JULY 17 >

## IN BRIEF



### RESOURCE: GRANT CONNECT

Grant Connect is a fundraising platform that connects charities with funders who share their cause. Includes 11,000 Canadian foundations, 560 corporate giving programs, 370 government grant programs, 120 American foundations, and 200 other kinds of grant opportunities that support Canadian nonprofits.

Access is available only on a Peterborough Public Library computer or your own device at the Library.

This is a **free** resource thanks to support from the Peterborough and Area Fundraisers' Network and the Community Foundation.

LEARN MORE HERE >



### ANNOUNCING: NEW BOARD MEMBERS

This year, the Foundation is pleased to welcome four new, dynamic board members to the team.

Meet Rachel DeGreef, Suzanne Galloway, Cody McMahon, and Thomas Street, and familiarize yourself with those who continue to serve at the link below.

MEET THEM HERE >

HELP US BUILD A VITAL COMMUNITY FOR EVERYONE

DONATE NOW

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