

OCFootprints

Special Edition



ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxford Community Foundation granting \$201,870 as part of Emergency Community Support Fund

Oxford Community Foundation will deliver \$201,870 to support local charities responding to COVID-19. This funding is being made possible through Community Foundations of Canada and the Government of Canada's \$350 million Emergency Community Support Fund.

Vulnerable populations continue to be disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Marginalized groups, youth, children and the elderly as well as essential workers and newcomers are just some of the communities that are facing increased challenges right now.

We are proud to deliver funding in Oxford County to ensure that our most vulnerable populations are safe and healthy and to make sure that no one is left behind during these challenging times. This funding will help us to

reach vital urgent and growing needs in the heart of small town and rural communities in Oxford County.

Grant applications are now being accepted.

Charitable organizations can go to www.oxfordcommunityfoundation.org for more details and to apply. The application process should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Projects must address a well-being need caused by COVID-19; serve one or more vulnerable groups and be completed before March 31, 2021 to qualify.

Applications will be received and assessed on a weekly rolling basis and grants will be distributed regularly to ensure that funds flow quickly to help local organizations meet urgent needs. The final date to

submit an application is July 27, 2020.

Oxford Community Foundation would like to thank the Government of Canada and Community Foundations of Canada for recognizing the urgent need and the critical role that the 191 community foundations in Canada play in reaching both small and large communities across Canada. Their support is much appreciated by our community.



VIRTUAL ZOOM Annual General Meeting – Business Agenda

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAqcO2hpkjHdPMggnGE5Mb4585NnOc2-Yc>

On **June 23 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.** EDT, Oxford Community Foundation will be hosting its 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM). As a non-profit organization, our AGM is a legal requirement. The business segments will be covered during this meeting and in the fall, we hope to host a social where we can come together to celebrate our donors and share stories of the positive changes their investments are making in Oxford County.

Zoom is easy to use. If you have a computer and need help please contact us at 226-667-6404.

We are *inspired* daily by the kindness, creativity, and determination of our local charities.



As we slowly emerge from the COVID-19 lockdown, it is becoming clear that it will be a while before we return to any resemblance of “normal” life. We are all looking at changes in the ways we live, work, and play.

Wanting to impart some sense of normalcy, we’ve scheduled a new date for the **Annual Oxford County Warden’s Charity Golf Tournament** as well as our Annual General Meeting. Further details are included in this newsletter.

This pandemic has turned our world upside down and our community’s most vulnerable are being hit hard. To that end, on page one you will see an exciting announcement. Oxford Community Foundation will be distributing \$201,870 in Oxford County as part of the **Emergency Community Support Fund**.

As we continue to reach out to our local grassroots charitable organizations, we’re hearing that while no one is untouched by the current circumstances, the impacts are not being shared equally. For some individuals, the rug has been pulled out from under them and they’re needing to visit food banks for the first time ever. Mental health challenges are also being triggered. Anxiety about the future is causing new stresses and many are feeling immense pressure. Parents working from home with homeschooling obligations on top of cooking, cleaning, laundry and just taking care of the family without regular outlets or access to their support network. During stressful times, cases of abuse rise. Women experiencing violence have been trapped in their homes more so than ever, with their abusers making access to support that much more challenging.

Physical distancing has also put a sharp focus on what we lose when we are apart. Access to parks and community spaces for recreation feels more vital than ever before. People are also missing the enrichment, beauty and connections that come from live art and cultural experiences.

Charitable organizations are adapting, altering their programs and their delivery systems to meet demands. While it is distressing to see these issues growing in our community, it reminds us of the vital role played by our local charitable organizations delivering much needed services.

Your philanthropy matters now more now than ever. One of the crucial reasons community foundations exist is the flexibility we have to meet these unprecedented, changing needs.

Grants with impact

So far this year, because of our forward thinking fundholders investing in their local community foundation, a variety of grants have been distributed and we will continue to do so throughout the year. Here’s just a few examples of recent support:

- for **The Inn** homeless shelter and Bullwinkle food programs run by **Operation Sharing**;
- applications are currently being assessed for food security initiatives from the **Maple Leaf Community Fund** established by Harvey Beaty;
- 10+ student bursaries and awards being granted from the **Tyler Arts Legacy Fund**, the **Children’s Aid Society Oxford Fund**, the **WDDS Rosemary George Fund**, the **Hawkins Family Legacy Fund**, the **Oxford Manufacturers for Skills Development Fund**, the **Lorna & George Roberts Fund**, and the **Pat & Barry Smith Fund**; and
- **Wellkin’s Youth Drop-in Hub** made possible by the **RBC Futures Launch Program**. During the pandemic, the program is being offered virtually. The physical location will be opening later.

It will take months if not years to heal from the financial and mental challenges caused by COVID-19. Oxford Community Foundation will be here to do our part including ongoing assessments of community needs to help guide granting so that crucial needs are met, and growth opportunities are explored.

At Oxford Community Foundation, we are grateful for the work being done in our community to help us all get through these challenging times. We are inspired daily by the kindness, creativity and determination of our local charities. To our essential workers, to our charitable organizations and to our fundholders... we thank you.

– **Louise Wardrop, Executive Director**



NEW DATE

Warden Larry Martin invites you to attend the

Oxford County Warden’s Charity Golf Tournament

Friday, Sept 25th

Ingersoll Golf Club
51 Holcroft St. W., Ingersoll



Looking Forward...Giving Back!

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OCF Volunteer Board of Directors: Bill Mackesy (Chair), Keith Stevens (Vice-chair), Liz Lessif (ex-officio Past Chair), Neil Dolson, Rosemary George, Don Hilborn, Mary Holmes, Michael Kukhta, John MacDonald, Steve Robb, Karen Sample, Kelly Gilson (ex-officio United Way)