



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, June 19, 2014

CWCF Public Update, Record Granting and 2014 Successful Mini-Grant Recipients

Fergus, Ontario - The Centre Wellington Community Foundation (CWCF) held its annual public update on June 10 at Aboyne Hall with some 60 people in attendance.

CWCF Board Chair Randall Howard reported significant progress , “Since our inception in 2008 we have grown to about \$250,000 in assets, in 7 diverse funds which are open to donations. During 2013, we granted \$26,000 to local nonprofits and a total of \$60,000 since 2011.”

A 3 person panel, moderated by Carolyn Skimson, discussed some of the issues that face their particular community cause: Ron McKinnon from the Community Resource Centre of North and Centre Wellington talked about social issues, painter and professor John Kissick talked about the challenges facing the arts and cultural sector in our community and Maddy Smtih a member of the Premier’s Youth Council, brought the youth perspective.

Cindy Lindsay, Director of Member Services for Community Foundations of Canada outlined Vital Signs, an annual check-up conducted by community foundations to measure the vitality of communities across Canada. The Vital Signs process gathers and publishes data on significant social and economic trends and assigns grades in areas critical to quality of life. Centre Wellington Community Foundation is laying the groundwork to take this research on in 2015.

The gathering concluded with the awarding of 9 mini-grants to successful applicants spanning most areas of Centre Wellington and a broad diversity of good causes:

The Alma and David Jack Youth Recreation Fund Recipients

Organization: **Community Resource Centre of North and Centre Wellington**

Project: **Let Kids Play**

This program provides funds to assist families in purchasing children’s sports equipment such as hockey skates, soccer cleats, baseball gloves and running shoes for gym class. Resource Centre outreach staff coordinate the program that provides up to \$200 per child per year.

Organization: **Belwood Lions Club and Belwood Kids in Motion**

Project: **Maple Grove Playground**

Funds will help purchase new, innovative equipment in Maple Grove Park in Belwood, a playground improvement that is being sponsored by the Township of Centre Wellington Parks and Recreation.

Cedarcliff Fund Recipients

Organization: **Fergus BIA**

Project: **James Square Kissing Story Board and bench**

Located in downtown Fergus, the Kissing Stone sign will tell the sweet story about the local legend of this green space which has it that a boy was allowed to kiss his girl if she was sitting on the kissing stone. Additional local history will be included on the storyboard. A handcrafted bench will encourage visitors to pause and enjoy the little park.

Organization: **Elora Centre for the Arts**

Project: **Elora Art Walk**

To showcase the profusion of local art, the Elora Arts Centre will produce a guide/map directing visitors to outdoor sculpture, public and private art galleries and downtown retailers which are exhibiting local art. Local cultural events will also be listed.

Community Fund Recipients

Organization: **Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Centre Wellington**

Project: **Go Girls.**

This 10-year old program is geared for girls aged 12 to 14 to help them make informed choices about healthy eating, staying active, self image, and relationships. Each group of 8 – 10 girls is led by two trained female mentors (between 18 and 30) who meet with the group for 7 to 8 weeks during the school year.

Organization: **John Howard Society of Waterloo-Wellington**

Project: **Bullying Prevention for K-6 grades and COPES (Communicating our Perspectives and Emotions Successfully)** for grades 7 – 10.

Funding supports two important youth programs delivered to Centre Wellington Schools:

- Bullying Prevention program is delivered for about 40 minutes, once a week for 5 weeks. It covers topics like developing prevention strategies, social competency skills and wise use of electronic communication devices.
- COPES is delivered to groups of 5 – 12 youth once a week for 8 weeks. Participants are identified by school staff as needing support in emotional and behavior management to improve their school success and reduce their risk of escalating difficulties.

Organization: **Children's Foundation of Guelph Wellington**

Project: **Salad Bar program for students at JD Hogarth**

Funds will purchase healthy food to boost children's intake of fruits and vegetables and learn about the value of nutritious food, which is important in helping children focus and learn. Three school volunteers donate about 60 hours a month to this program.

Organization: **Upper Grand Learning Foundation / John Black Public School**
Project: **Ukulele Music Program**

Funds will purchase 18 ukuleles and accompanying resource books, initially offered to all 120 grades 7 and 8 students by teachers with parent volunteers. As a cost effective instruments that is easy to learn, the goal is to provide an engaging music study that will enhance students life long love of music.

Organization: **The Elora Environment Centre**
Project: **Rain Garden**

Funds will be used to build a rain garden to demonstrate an innovative and effective way to mitigate storm water run off, a growing problem as climate changes brings more severe weather conditions

About CWCF:

The Centre Wellington Community Foundation is public, charitable Foundation created for and by the people of Centre Wellington. It is one of 191 Community Foundations across Canada. Its mission is to strengthen the community by helping donors achieve their giving goals and by helping local not for profits organizations find resources to support their work. For more information about the grants, the granting process or about the foundation, please contact the foundation or visit their website at www.cwcfoundation.ca.

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