The Foundation Announces Granting for Community Fund for Canada’s 150th

Oakville, Ont. 24th of January 2017: The Oakville Community Foundation is proud to announce funding of 11 new projects in the Town of Oakville part of the Community Fund for Canada’s 150th. These projects total over $104,047 aligning with commemorative historical events that embrace the diverse cultural heritage of our community.

This Fund is part of a national program developed by Community Foundations Canada in partnership with the federal government that seeks to inspire a deeper understanding of our nation and encourage broad and inclusive participation in a wide range of initiatives marking the country’s sesquicentennial anniversary of Confederation.

“Oakville is truly a reflection of Canada with our strong, diverse cultural heritage. These unique community initiatives will build on this heritage and foster the development of inclusion and understanding as a way of acknowledging and recognizing Canada’s 150th Anniversary.” John Oliver Member of Parliament for Oakville.

In Oakville, funded projects include educational activities, community gardens, historical tours and displays, additions to the Heritage Trails celebrating the town’s Indigenous heritage, as well as local art galas, awards and speaking events.

“There’s been a great deal of local interest in the Canada’s 150th grants,” says The Foundation’s CEO Wendy Rinella, “and we’re excited to build on our work from past years like the Heritage Trails, developed as part of Oakville’s celebration for the Millenary celebrations. It is in step with The Foundation’s focus on diversity and inclusion found in our Creating Vital Signs/Solutions work and moreover as a signatory of the Philanthropic Communities Declaration of Action on Truth and Reconciliation.”

“The Foundation focuses on Oakville’s community well-being, for both now and in the long term. We are proud to be supporting municipal, community and indigenous projects with the Federal Government, as we come together in recognition of Canada’s 150th anniversary.” Gerald Popp, Board Chair, Oakville Community Foundation.

Projects supported by the Community Fund include Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oakville, the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton, the Bronte and Trafalgar Historical Societies, the Canadian Rugby Union, the Freedom Centre International Oakville, the Oakville Arts Council, the Oakville Camera Club the Town of Oakville and the Women’s Centre of Halton.

For full details on these projects please see (Appendix A)
These local projects aim to build healthy communities with the broadest possible engagement of all Canadians, including indigenous peoples, groups that reflect Canada's pluralism, official language minorities and youth. They are intended to inspire a deep understanding about the people, places and events that shape our communities and our country, and encourage participation in community initiatives, activities and events to mark the 150th anniversary of Confederation. This grant is supporting thousands of initiatives through small grants for community projects.

“The 150th Anniversary of Canada’s Confederation is an opportunity for all Canadians to reflect on the values that brought us to this point as a nation,” says Pam Damoff, Member of Parliament for Oakville North-Burlington. “Canada is proud to be a free and open society that welcomes newcomers, celebrates diversity and is a respected world-leader in protecting the environment, peace-keeping and gender equality.”

Eligible programs included: registered charities, registered Canadian amateur athletic associations, registered housing corporations residing in Canada constituted exclusively to provide low-cost housing for the aged, registered Canadian municipalities and registered municipal public bodies performing a function of government in Canada.

About the Oakville Community Foundation: The Oakville Community Foundation is a leader in philanthropic stewarding and community building. Our Vision is to build a healthy, vital community where everyone has a sense of belonging, and the opportunity to connect, contribute and realize their potential. We invest the generosity of caring residents to build opportunities for generations.

About Community Foundations Canada’s Community Fund for Canada’s 150th: This initiative is made possible by the Community Fund for Canada’s 150th, a collaboration between the Oakville Community Foundation, the Government of Canada and extraordinary leaders from coast-to-coast.

On a national scale, The Community Foundations of Canada, The Government of Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage and private philanthropists and local leaders from across the country have collaborated to create The Community Fund for Canada’s 150th, the goal of which is to support thousands of local projects with three main goals.

1. **Encouraging** participation in community events and activities marking Canada’s 150th anniversary of Confederation.
2. **Inspiring** a deeper understanding of the people, places and events shaping our country and communities.
3. **Building engaged**, healthy and vibrant communities including the indigenous and visible minorities reflecting the diversity of our nation and youth.

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Fact Sheet:

Foundation facts:

- Since our founding in 1994, we have accumulated over $103 million in total assets, and distributed over $21 million in grants in support of charitable programs around Oakville and Halton Region.
- The Foundation’s commitment to our community and maintaining meaningful partnerships with the organizations making a difference in Oakville has led to more than $7.5 million in agency disbursements.
  - In 2016, The Foundation granted over $2.9 million, largest granting in history.
  - In 2015, the Foundation launched its fourth edition of its Vital Signs report for Oakville.
  - In June 2016, The Foundation started a two-year research and consultation partnership with Sheridan College’s Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, to undertake a project entitled ‘Community Ideas Factory’. The project will build ongoing exchanges of information, experiences and views; improved cooperation, participation and engagement of all stakeholders; as well as greater group ownership by participants over the problems/solutions with the goal of greater efficiency within the social sector.
- Has over 175 family and organization funds
- Endowment funds support youth, the environment, heritage and others as they relate to our core priority areas as identified in Vital Signs.

Canada 150 Grants facts – coast to coast

- The 150 Fund is providing thousands of small grants to local projects in every province and territory to engage the broadest possible array of Canadians with a particular focus on initiatives involving youth, Indigenous groups, official language minorities, and groups that reflect Canada’s cultural diversity.
- Already more than 150 community foundations across the country, including the Oakville Community Foundation, are participating in the Fund which has so far supported over 500 projects in more than 200 communities throughout Canada with more activation set for 2017.

Key Themes

- Broadly, the Community Fund for Canada’s 150th will support thousands of local projects connected to Canada’s 150th, that:
  - ENCOURAGE participation in community activities and events to mark Canada’s 150th anniversary of Confederation.
  - INSPIRE a deeper understanding about the people, places and events that shape our country and our communities.
  - BUILD vibrant and healthy communities with the broadest possible engagement of all Canadians, including indigenous peoples; groups that reflect our cultural diversity; youth; and official language minorities.

Key Facts & Figures

- Anticipated total of local projects supported across Canada by end of 2017: 2,000
- Anticipated total amount of grants provided across Canada by end of 2017: $19 Million
- Anticipated total of communities supported by end of 2017: 400
- Anticipated total of community foundations participating in 150 Fund by end of 2017: 165
- Anticipated total of volunteers engaged in projects supported by the 150 Fund: 100,000
Projects Announced – Coast to Coast

- **150 Reasons**: An initiative organized by the Greater Victoria Volunteer Society to support a series of pop-up projects designed and led by youth to mark Canada's 150th. 150 Reasons will train 20 young people in volunteer leadership and project management, and then engage 240 locals in youth-led and youth-inspired projects. (Victoria, BC)

- **Canada 150 for 150 Volunteer Challenge**: Taking up a national challenge from Volunteer Ottawa, the Kelowna Community Resources Society will encourage Central Okanagan residents to volunteer 150 hours during 2017. (Kelowna, BC)

- **150 Edmonton Volunteer Voices**: A 2017-inspired digital media campaign from the Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations to share 150 unique stories throughout the year that are reflective of the city’s diverse volunteer community. (Edmonton, AB)

- **Celebrating 150 Years of Volunteerism**: A project from Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington to create a mural that celebrates Canada's 150th and pays tribute to the country’s long-standing history of volunteerism with a focus on local volunteer efforts in Guelph. (Guelph, ON)

Oakville’s Canada 150 Grants - List of funded projects:
The organizations running these local Canada's 150th-funded projects are:

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters** – Celebrating 150 years of local and regional history. With 140 volunteers utilizing local resources, this program expects to engage 1200 members of the community through one-on-one mentoring, hiking and other forms of active engagement.

- **Freedom Centre International Oakville** (Burloak Christian Fellowship) – Creating a community garden to provide local food banks with fresh produce. This program will involve volunteers from across the community, including 15 from John Deere and will engage 400 members of the community.

- **The Bronte Historical Society** – Commemorating the Battle of Trafalgar with a speaking presentation, display, maritime art exhibit, music and a resource kit for elementary schools bringing greater understanding of the 1805 naval battle, the British Empire and the naming of Bronte.

- **The Women’s Centre of Halton** - Highlighting women whose personal and achievements have advanced the status of women, the community and humanity as a whole via a multimedia presentation and the awarding of plaques to living honorees. This project will engage 250 community members and involve an expected 50 volunteers.
• **The Town of Oakville** - The construction of plaques and an information kiosk on Oakville Heritage Trails. Content will be developed with the Mississaugas of the Anishinawabe and Indigenous community members. The Bronte Creek and Sixteen Mile Moccasin Trails will include 13 plaques each containing aboriginal stories, verses and information relating to the land, water and sky, providing further understanding of aboriginal heritage. The information kiosk on the Bronte Creek trail would serve as a First Nations information station, in honour of the beginning of the Truth and Reconciliation process. Combined, over 4000 community members will participate or benefit from this project and will involve over 60 volunteer positions.

• **The Canadian Rugby Union** (Crusaders Rugby Club) – A one day event that includes all age’s interactive, educational activities and appearances from representatives of the Men’s and Women’s National Rugby and the 2016 Rio Olympics Women’s Rugby teams. This event will involve over 100 volunteers and 750 community members.

• **Trafalgar Township Historical Society** – Three panel heritage displays for the Town of Oakville and Trafalgar Township commemorating the last 150 years for a rotating exhibit. These displays will be run with the assistance of 7 volunteers and engage 1000 community members.

• **Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton** - Celebrating Canada's 150th with Heritage and Black History of Oakville during Black History Month and Emancipation Day 2017. This project will take place at Town Hall, local Oakville schools, Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre, Sheridan College, Oakville Museum and Oakville Harbour. Events include guest speakers, exhibitions, musical performances and a picnic. This project should involve 70 volunteers and engage over 8000 community members.

• **Oakville Arts Council in Collaboration with Oakville Camera Club** – Photography competition, exhibition and awards gala focusing on the history and diversity of Oakville. Supporting event with 25 volunteers and 200 expected participants.