

Media Contact:

Jason Harnett, Communications Coordinator
jason.harnett@gravenhurst.ca
(705) 687.2230 Ext.239
3-5 Pineridge Gate
Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1Z3

www.gravenhurst.ca



NEWS RELEASE

March 15, 2016

Terence Haight Community Grants Awarded Nine Local Groups Receive Funding

Gravenhurst, ON - At the Town Council meeting today Nine Gravenhurst community organizations received funding through the Terence Haight Financial Assistance Program. Last month Town Council approved the recommendations from the Terence Haight Financial Assistance Review Committee to award community grants to the following groups: Trinity United Church - \$6,000; Gravenhurst Women's Centre -\$5,000; Muskoka Concert Association - \$1,500; and Gravenhurst Supper Club \$2,500. The remaining groups received grants of \$1,000 each: Women's Wellness Conference, Gravenhurst Fine Films, The Network Gravenhurst, YWCA Muskoka and Junior Achievers

"Council is pleased to be able to help a few of our community-minded groups that make Gravenhurst that much better for our residents," said Mayor Paisley Donaldson. "It is our hope that Mr. Haight's generous spirit will live on through the valuable work these deserving recipients do for our community," added the Mayor.

The committee received a record number of 14 submissions with a combined grant request in excess of \$75,000 for a range of community programming. The committee made its recommendations after carefully considering: the purpose of the grant request; the potential impact on the Gravenhurst community; and the ability of the committee to accommodate the dollars requested.

"While we were delighted at the number of applications received this year, the committee was challenged to evaluate the many worthy funding requests," said John Twist, Committee Chair. "We wanted to ensure that the available funds are distributed equitably," he added.

The Terence Haight Financial Review Committee is a committee of Council with the annual mandate to consider applications and recommend the awarding of up to \$20,000 in community grants. The program was established by the Town Council in 2013, following the significant financial bequest by Mr. Haight of \$1 million to the Town. The fund's goal is to provide limited financial assistance to groups and organizations within the municipality to assist with activities, special events or with an improvement to the organization's existing assets.

-30-

For additional information, please contact:

Val Sequeira
Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer Coordinator,
val.sequeira@gravenhurst.ca;
(705) 687-2230 Ext. 252

Our Mission:

Preserving and enhancing quality of life in Gravenhurst through exceptional and responsible municipal service delivery.

**Media Contact:**

Jason Harnett, Communications Coordinator
jason.harnett@gravenhurst.ca
(705) 687.2230 Ext.239
3-5 Pineridge Gate
Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1Z3

www.gravenhurst.ca



ABOUT TERENCE HAIGHT

Terence Haight was born in Peterborough, Ontario, November 5, 1920. His father, a newspaper pressman, moved the young family to Bracebridge for the beauty of the area and clean air. Terence, along with his three brothers and one sister, loved the outdoors, swimming, canoeing, snowshoeing and skiing. They also helped tend their father's vegetable garden, hunted and trapped.

As a young man, Mr. Haight ran a bakery in nearby Bracebridge, and the tourist establishments in Gravenhurst always gave him plenty of business. Eventually marrying a Gravenhurst woman named Audrey McDonald, they moved two hours away to North Bay, where he worked in a hardware store. After Audrey died, Terence relocated to New Liskeard, Ontario.

Mr. Haight was a private, yet very much community-minded person. Although he helped many causes in his community of New Liskeard, he did not seek attention, preferring to donate in a discreet, charitable manner.

What his friends and neighbours did not know was that Terence had invested in mining stocks and quietly amassed a small fortune. To everyone's surprise he bequeathed over \$ 1 million dollars to the Town of Gravenhurst.

Why did Terence Haight choose Gravenhurst? We know he had a great appreciation for the Town of Gravenhurst during the time he ran his bakery, but more importantly his wife Audrey McDonald grew up in the Town, at 22 David St. East, the daughter of John McDonald, a lumberman. Terence chose to be laid to rest in Gravenhurst. He was buried beside his wife in Lakeview Cemetery, December 2008.

"Terence Haight was a leader and a visionary and would rather have seen his lifetime savings used for a long term vision rather than just providing a short term solution," said his former Pastor, Father John Lemire.

In October 2011, a public dedication ceremony took place in Gravenhurst honouring Mr. Haight's memory and contributions to the Town. Besides the million dollar gift for the Town of Gravenhurst, he left portions to a hospital, the Salvation Army and his parish.

After a number of suggestions from Gravenhurst residents as to how the Town should manage the financial gift left by Mr. Haight, Council decided on establishing an annual Grant program in which local organizations could put forth applications. This grant is known today as 'The Terence Haight Financial Assistance Program'.

Sources:

- Adrian Morrow, The Globe and Mail August. 12, 2011
- Jessica Hume, National Post, August 8, 2011
- Rotary Club of Gravenhurst
- Town of Gravenhurst

Our Mission:

Preserving and enhancing quality of life in Gravenhurst through exceptional and responsible municipal service delivery.

Trinity United Church \$ 6,000 (Tom Irvine, Dan McCoy)

The grant will support a non-denominational Community Youth Choir (segregated from church activities) with up to 14 youth, of which only 2 attend the church. The choir will be professionally trained and will perform primarily secular music. There will be outreach in the Gravenhurst community through a variety of communication tools with a goal to double the number of children involved in the choir - including those with disabilities and limited musical ability. Joint performances will take place in 2016 with the August Organ Series and the Ukulele Society.

Gravenhurst Women's Centre \$ 5,000 (Peggyann Boudreau, Anna Giroux)

The Gravenhurst Women's Centre (GWC) provides services and support for all women in the Town and its environs. On average 50-80 women access the centre on a monthly basis. There are currently 10 volunteers and the goal is to expand this group to 25-30 volunteers. The grant will allow the Centre to hire a "volunteer coordinator" for 4 months to train up to 20 volunteers in anti-poverty awareness, mental health awareness, environmental/personal safety, CPR and similar courses. They will learn about social services available in the area, and will work with stakeholders in the community to fulfill the GWC mandate.

Gravenhurst Supper Club \$ 2,500 (Valerie Ceschia-Hart)

The Gravenhurst Supper Club is run solely by volunteers. It has been in operation since 2008, and provides a free meal every Thursday night year round. All are welcome. 70-90 meals are provided per night on average and the number has exceeded 100. Funds to buy food are dependent on donations and local fundraisers neither of which are stable. The grant provides a 10 week cushion so the club is not struggling on a week-to-week basis to figure out where the next donation will come from.

Muskoka Concert Association \$ 1,500 (Dianne Harrop)

The Muskoka Concert Association (MCA) presents an annual series of four classical music concerts. It is run by seven volunteers who organize and coordinate all activities. The grant will allow MCA to include an in-school educational component by the performing artists prior to each concert to enhance the musical experience and learning of our youth. It will also allow the MCA to invite young musicians to open each concert with a 30 minute performance and offer them a small honorarium.

The Network Gravenhurst \$ 1,000 (Graham Porter)

The grant will sponsor four youth in a new after-school project for local youth called "Minecraft Gravenhurst". Working with cutting edge technology they will create a virtual version of the downtown and then build scale models. This project will engage youth, providing hands-on learning about technology, project management and collaboration. It will also foster community pride.

Women's Wellness Conference \$ 1,000 (Donna Gordon, Bev Heibin, Sue Kelly)

The first ever Women's Wellness Conference in Gravenhurst is scheduled for Oct 14-15, 2016 for 100 women in the 55+ age group. It has partnerships and volunteer support from multiple stakeholders in the community and 60% of the attendees are expected to be from outside of Gravenhurst. The grant is to cover the registration fee for seven eligible Gravenhurst women who might not otherwise be able to attend.

Gravenhurst Fine Films \$ 1,000 (Candis Jones)

Gravenhurst Fine Films, run by a dedicated group of volunteers, brings current Canadian and international films for viewing at the Gravenhurst Opera House each month providing an affordable outing for Gravenhurst residents. Attendance has averaged 55 a month. The grant is intended to help with the distribution costs associated with renting the films.

Junior Achievement \$ 1,000 (Barbara White)

Financial literacy skills are taught by Junior Achievement through specific programs for grades 3, 7-8 and 11-12. Each program costs \$800. This grant will be directed towards the cost of delivering the program in Gravenhurst schools.

YWCA Muskoka \$ 1,000 (Hannah Lin)

Girlz Unplugged runs weekly for 12 week program in all three Gravenhurst elementary schools for grades 5-8. The program costs \$3,000 to deliver to each school. The grant award recognizes the value of this service provided by the YWCA Muskoka for young girls in our local schools.