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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Terence Haight Grants Presented to Gravenhurst Community Groups

**Gravenhurst, ON** - Mayor Donaldson and fellow Gravenhurst Town Councillors delivered some great news to nine local community groups yesterday who were approved for Community Funding through the Terence Haight Community Grant Program.

“Council is very proud of this program, funds (through Terence Haight) have went to support many worthy community organizations in Gravenhurst,” said Mayor Donaldson. “We hope that through this funding, this year’s grant recipients can continue to do the great work they do.”

Last month Town Council approved the recommendations from the Terence Haight Financial Assistance Review Committee to award community grants to the following groups: **Severn River Rowing Club** - \$4,580; **Gravenhurst Curling Club** - \$3,000; **Sawdust City Music Festival** - \$3,000; **West Muskoka Ringette Association** \$2,500; **Gravenhurst Supper Club** - \$2,500; **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Muskoka**, \$1,500; **Muskoka Pride** - \$1,250; **Muskoka Steamships & Historical Society** - \$1,000 and the **Ryde Community Co-operative Inc.** - \$670.

This year the committee received 11 submissions with a combined grant request in excess of \$32,000 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.

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. To learn more about the grant please visit: [www.gravenhurst.ca/communityfunding](http://www.gravenhurst.ca/communityfunding)

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**For additional information, please contact:**

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**Our Mission:**

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

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## 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

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## ORGANIZATIONS AWARD PURPOSE OF GRANT

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### **Severn River Rowing Club \$ 4,580**

This grant will support the purchase of a coach boat, trailer and roof rack to host a 'Learn to Row' program at Gull Lake for Town of Gravenhurst youth.

### **Sawdust City Music Festival \$ 3,000**

This grant will help support the introduction of a 'Kids Zone' at the 2018 festival in Gravenhurst to attract more families and children

### **Gravenhurst Curling Club \$ 3,000**

Funds from this grant will help to have the entire exterior of the facility painted with the assistance of Beaver Creek institution and volunteers.

### **Gravenhurst Supper Club \$ 2,500**

This grant will help finance the purchase of new fridge, freezer and shelving for the program which offers a free meal every Thursday night.

### **West Muskoka Ringette Association \$ 2,500**

This grant will help with the associated costs of ice rental time in 2018 at the Centennial Arena in Gravenhurst.

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Muskoka \$1,500**

This grant will go towards community consultation in Gravenhurst to help inform strategic planning for the next four years.

### **Muskoka Pride \$ 1,250**

This grant will go towards supporting the Annual Pride conference in Gravenhurst in 2018.

### **Muskoka Steamship & Historical Society \$ 1,000**

This grant will help support The Water Gallery Project at the Muskoka Discovery Centre in Gravenhurst scheduled to open July 2018.

### **Ryde Community Co-Operative Inc \$ 670.00**

The grant will support the replacement of an old water pump and automatic shut off switch at Ryde Community Co-op in Gravenhurst.