

Ontario Trillium Foundation Great Grants Awards 2009 Finalists

Great Grants Award Finalists (province-wide):

Actua

The world of science, technology and engineering opens up for youth of all backgrounds from 200 Ontario communities as they enjoy hands-on activities, take home projects and on-site tours of real laboratories. Actua, a charitable organization committed to making science accessible for all youth, translated a three year \$350,000 OTF grant (awarded March 2005) into local programming for, among others, more than 11,000 Aboriginal youth and 2,600 Toronto youth from African and Caribbean communities. More girls enjoyed all-girl programming, and instructors and volunteers attended training. In all, more than 300,000 youth enjoyed 1.6-million hours of hands on science and technology programming.

Ontario Association of Food Banks

Food left undelivered is food wasted. The Ontario Association of Food Banks (OAFB) and its members created a robust hub-and-spoke transportation network to move more than 3.6 million kilograms of shelf-stable food around Ontario every year. The distribution network was built with a three-year \$413,000 OTF grant (awarded March 2006). OAFB entered into 30 non-traditional partnerships to divert into their distribution system millions of kilograms of food otherwise bound for waste and established a social enterprise partnership that turns food by-products into green/clean bio-fuel. OAFB is now eyeing partnerships with fresh fruit and vegetable farmers to annually capture millions of kilograms of edible produce that currently doesn't make it past the farm gate.

Collaborative for Non-Profit Enhancement

Capacity Waterloo Region (CWR) is a new locally-developed model to deepen the community's capacity for innovation and change in the not-for profit sector. Leaders from as many as 300 Waterloo Region not-for-profit organizations will be exposed to new resources and support that boost their leadership skills, trigger more collaboration and idea-sharing and fosters a culture of innovation. CWR is the result of \$150,000 in OTF support (awarded June 2006) and an outcome of a collaborative leadership initiative called "Moving Organizations from Good to Great." Partners in the Collaborative are United Way Kitchener-Waterloo and Area, The Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation and Ontario Trillium Foundation. Activities included forums with community leaders from not-for-profits, government, academia, funders and the for-profit sector as well as exploration of new ways to collaborate to share knowledge and fund new ideas, program and models.

Foodlink Waterloo

"Buy Local! Buy Fresh!" sums up the extraordinarily successful campaign of [Foodlink Waterloo](#) to reconnect urban food shoppers to local farmers. Foodlink works directly with more than 152 farms in the area, and its 'Buy Local Buy Fresh!' branding campaign now extends to such local food processors as cider mills, bakeries, butchers, egg grading stations and flower mills, as well as restaurants and retailers. Now recognized as a pioneer in the local food movement, Foodlink is exporting its knowhow

to 10 other regions across Ontario. A \$162,500 grant over three years (awarded June 2006) enabled the program's ongoing development.

Faith and the Common Good

The Greening Sacred Spaces program encourages different faith communities to green their places of worship (and their own homes) through environmental audits and retrofits, educational presentations and public events. Using \$124,000 in one-year OTF funding (awarded June 2007), [Faith and the Common Good](#) hired five Greening Sacred Space representatives to work with faith communities in the regions of Ottawa, Peterborough, Kingston Toronto and Waterloo. A total of 101 faith communities (Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu Sikh, Buddhist, Bahai, Unitarian, Zen, and Hare Krishna) are members of the program and another 72 communities are expressing interest.

Environment Finalists

Chippewas of Nawash Unceded Nation (Neyaashiinigiing)

Two First Nation bands in the Grey-Bruce Huron-Perth region are blending traditional environmental knowledge with scientific expertise in order to lend an indigenous voice to important local land use planning discussions. A \$25,000 one-year OTF grant (awarded June 2005) helped the [Chippewas of Nawash](#) and the Saugeen First Nations Bands initiate discussions with local industries and governments about proposed development projects and the environmental impact they might have on traditional territories. Local industries and municipalities are now proactively seeking comment from the bands' Environmental Office on new projects, such as proposed tree cutting near reserves, potential housing developments in Bruce Peninsula region, local quarry proposals and power generation plans.

Walpole Island Land Trust (Wallaceburg)

Acre by acre, the [Walpole Island Land Trust](#) is working to return the area's ecosystem to its natural state and provide a protected space for at-risk species of plants and animals. The OTF provided a one year grant of \$58,300 (awarded November 2007) to establish the trust that will permanently protect the natural heritage lands within the traditional territory of Walpole Island First Nation. The land trust is leasing lands and attempting to keep them natural until sufficient funds can be raised to purchase them. The trust is using innovative partnerships and agreements to generate income and has been identified as a "best practices" site for its use of community problem-solving strategies.

Greenest City Environmental Organization (Toronto)

It started with a recognized need, poverty, a desire to engage people in their communities and engage at-risk youths. It ended with HOPE - Healthy Organic Parkdale Edibles. The [HOPE Garden](#) is a 4,000 square foot organic garden in the mixed neighbourhood of Toronto's Parkdale that has become a veritable 'outdoor community centre'. The garden brings individuals, families and agencies together to grow and harvest food. Using a \$222,000 OTF grant (awarded June 2007) [Greenest City Environmental Organization](#) is engaging at risk youth and marginalized adults to be leaders in their community. Greenest City and HOPE Garden partners with the Sketch youth organization to get youths growing food, then taking it back to their community kitchen. The harvest - 3,000 pounds - is shared among three local agencies.

Peterborough Green Up (Peterborough)

Peterborough school children are learning why trees are vital to a community's health and well-being – and then pulling their families outside to conduct backyard and neighbourhood tree inventories. Thirty youth and adult volunteers are being trained to serve as urban foresters and join tree planting activities. Staff at local garden centres, Trent University, a hardware store and golf course gave a tree care workshop. All are part of the [Urban Forestry Program](#), a partnership between [Peterborough Green Up](#) and the City of Peterborough that engages residents to preserve and enhance the urban forest in their neighbourhood. The city is developing a new municipal forestry policy to ensure the Peterborough's green canopy is regularly nurtured and maintained. A three-year \$162,500 OTF grant (awarded June 2007) is underpinning this community forest movement.

Arts and Culture Finalists

Salon du Livre du Grand Sudbury (Sudbury)

Celebrating French language literature in all its forms, and taking French language books and writings to new audiences in non-traditional settings – from child care centres to scouts groups and Big Brothers/Big Sisters events – is the work of the [Salon du Livre du Grand Sudbury](#). Promoting French language education through readings, workshops, author visits and cultural animations has made the Salon the fourth largest literary festival in Canada. In 2006 12 literacy excursions reached almost 4,950 people, while more than 270 people participating in the battle of the book contest. Thirteen hundred youth participated in the 2007 Festival de la mauvaise herbe, a literary festival by and for youth. An OTF grant of \$74,500 over one year (awarded June 2006) helped the Salon organize and build momentum for Salon du Livre 2008.

Devereaux House Preservation Project c/o Georgetown Soccer Club (Halton-Peel)

For Halton Hills residents, Devereaux farmhouse has not only been preserved as a lovely rural heritage property, but now provides affordable rental space for community groups. The combined efforts of Georgetown Soccer Club, a local heritage group, and a \$100,000 Foundation grant (awarded October 2006) helped to fund the restoration of the historic property located close to a major sports park. The soccer club has become a tenant in the renovated building, which is a model for “green” historic renovation.

Akwesasne Economic Development Agency – AEDA (Cornwall)

Preserving the Mohawk language in Akwesasne, the second largest First Nation in Canada, is a labour of love. This multi-year project first saw the development of a multi-media Mohawk language initiative in 2005 with more than 1,300 people participating (\$75,000 awarded). The initiative has expanded to include stories, songs, art and images, which are important components when archiving an aboriginal language. As a result of its early success, the organization has been asked to share expertise with other aboriginal communities as they develop their own multi-media aboriginal language programs. A \$100,000 grant over two years (awarded June 2008) will help [AEDA](#) continue their work as well as expand its reach to other aboriginal communities.

Sports and Recreation Finalists

Youth Serving Agencies Network (Hamilton)

Studies show that children involved in positive recreational activities reduce poverty rates and mental health problems in low income families. Therefore, Hamilton's early integration of immigrant children and low income families into community sport and recreation programs pays off for all. Hamilton's KICK Start program removes barriers of cost, language and cultural differences and gets kids involved in organized, low-cost sports and recreational programs. The \$144,900 grant over two years has seen more than 370 children a year benefit. The program also provides opportunities to practice English and become acquainted with other youth and families. New community partnerships have been established and private businesses are participating.

Beausoleil Family Health (Christian Island)

Beausoleil First Nation youth are bringing home some serious hardware in the form of championship medals. The introduction of a sports and recreation program for the Christian Island youth now sees more than 100 youth regularly engaged 50 weeks of the year in a variety of activities from karate to archery. Prior to the \$141,000 grant over three years (awarded 2006), families had to travel more than three hours for sport programs in Midland. Beausoleil youth had a unique say in the sport programming and community adults are engaged taking on coaching roles.

Centre for Local Research into Public Space (Toronto)

Neighbourhood parks and public spaces are livelier with new recreational, cultural and environmental programming thanks to the Centre for Local Research into Public Space (CELOS). CELOS is an outgrowth of Friends of Dufferin Grove Park in downtown Toronto, pioneers of innovative park activities. This one-year grant (\$50,000 awarded March 2007) helped CELOS use their expertise to develop a tool-kit to help 10 other neighbourhoods revitalize their community parks, launch a website, and train local volunteer groups. Ideas such as Earthen Architecture, organic markets, shinny hockey and campfire activities were introduced. Eighteen groups joined the initiative through the web presence, Park Commons.

Human and Social Services Finalists

Fools for Health (Windsor)

It's always a happy day for seniors when the clowns come to visit. Wearing big red noses and clown gear, and through the therapeutic use of music, improvisational play, reminiscence and humour, these Fools for Health or 'familial clowns' bring smiles and laughter to seniors in long term care. This \$129,400 grant over two years (awarded 2005) funded the lively arts-based intervention program which is seeing increased responsiveness, laughter and happier moods among senior residents.

Patrick 4 Life (North Bay)

Partici-Patrick gets elementary students to take on physical activities equating to a full 42.2 kilometre marathon over 10 weeks. Along the way, the youths learn age-appropriate information about HIV/AIDS and build a sense of personal responsibility for their choices and a respect for individual differences. Some 2,000 grade 4-8 students from all four Nippissing District school boards participated in the program's first year. Partici-Patrick is named in honour of Patrick Fortin, who, at age 7, contracted HIV through a blood transfusion. He died in 2001. Patrick4Life is a not-for-profit organization

dedicated to educating youth about the prevention of HIV/AIDS. (\$62,600 awarded October 2007)

Groupe Convex (Hawkesbury)

[Groupe Convex](#) helps people who are too often dismissed as unemployable find meaningful work. The innovative group has successfully launched 10 social enterprises in Prescott-Russell employing more than 125 people. A \$14,000 capital grant (awarded March 2007) helped purchase and install a four-season greenhouse which was used for community gardens and provided employment for people with disabilities. A subsequent \$130,000 over two years (awarded November 2007) allows the organization to share its expertise in social enterprise development by training and mentoring other local agencies to help individuals who face barriers to employment.

Community Living Thunder Bay (Thunder Bay)

K9 Delights Pet Bakery should be featured in business school case studies. Not only does it train and employ adults with developmental disabilities, providing them with work experience and skills to run a small business, the operation is exceeding sales targets by 96 per cent! The \$69,000 grant over two years (awarded March 2007) funded capital equipment and training for 19 full-time and 24 part-time staff with developmental disabilities. They were actively involved in the storefront operation doing everything from making original recipe dog biscuits, to packaging and running the retail operation. The City of Thunder Bay now employs several bakery trainees on long-term contracts in various departments. Bakery staff have identified and started implementing new products and services such as doggie pizza, cake and doggie loot bags. Woof! Woof!