



Headwaters  
**Communities  
in Action**

*Making Life Better Together*

## **REPORT TO**

**Treasurer, Town of Orangeville**

**To:** Cheryl Braan, Treasurer, Town of Orangeville

**From:** Headwaters Communities In Action

**Submitted:** May 1, 2025

**Meeting Date:** For Orangeville Town Council meeting May 12, 2025

**Subject:** 2025 Orangeville Community Grants Program  
Report of Recommendations

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# I. Executive Summary

## A. Introduction and Background

Headwaters Communities In Action (HCIA) is a registered charity and community backbone organization that has served communities across Dufferin County and Caledon since its inception in 2004. The organization has a strong record of fostering action on priority issues, providing backbone support, facilitating community connections and multi-sector collaborations in support of a long term vision of community well-being.

The Orangeville Community Grants Program is designed to provide funding to assist with some of the many social, economic, and other benefits that not-for-profit and charitable organizations provide to the Orangeville Community.

In December 2023, Town of Orangeville Council contracted HCIA to support the Orangeville Community Grants Program, in a similar manner as it has done for the County of Dufferin's Community Grants Program since 2018. HCIA's role is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the applications, make recommendations for grants and amounts, and work with Town staff on improvements to the application form, process, timelines and assessment criteria. In addition, HCIA assisted with public information sessions and FAQs in advance of each grant round to give applicants the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback on the process. The goal is to ensure a smooth experience for applicants and optimal use of funds, while responding to the needs of the community and the organizations that serve Orangeville residents.

## B. Processes

### 1. Application Process

Applications were accepted from February 1 to March 31, 2025.

In lieu of a live information session, for 2025 a list of Frequently Asked Questions was crafted from the content of the previous presentation, and posted on the grant program website. This resource gives an overview of criteria, scoring process and other considerations to help applicants prepare their applications.

Instructions on the Town website did not change and the application form was the same as previous years.

### 2. Assessment Process

**Team Selection:** A team of 2 HCIA Leadership Council (Board) members and 3 citizens were invited to form the HCIA Grant Assessment Team. There was consistency in the make-up of the assessment team compared to 2024, as well as people who were new to the team. Citizens

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represented a breadth of experience in community issues (volunteering, healthcare, education, community work and business), various lived experience, and/or experience in assessing grant applications. In cases where there was any possibility of conflict, the committee member recused themselves from assessing or participating in the discussion for the specific application in conflict.

A list of team members and short bios can be made available at Council's request, for internal use only.

**Governance:** A Terms of Reference document was reviewed and a confidentiality clause initialled by all members to ensure that everyone was clear on their obligations and to ensure transparency while protecting confidentiality.

**Grant process refinement:** The team noted observations and made suggestions for the next grant cycle. These will be shared in a debrief with Town staff. For 2025 HCIA used a new software tool to score applications, which improved the experience for the assessment team and streamlined processes for assignments, score sets and reporting.

#### **Review Process Steps:**

1. The team conducted a kickoff meeting confirming the qualifying criteria, scoring, and pre-screening comments from the Town.
2. Each committee member assessed the applications individually to determine scores and allocate appropriate amounts within the provided guidelines.
3. A group assessment meeting was held to compare and calibrate scores, discuss as a group, and arrive at final recommendations.

### **3. Reporting Process**

**Report of recommendations:** The Assessment Team's final recommendations are compiled into this report of recommendations, and submitted to the Treasurer, to be presented at the next Council meeting. Following Council's final decision, the approved grants are distributed and applicants notified by Town staff.

**Recipient reports:** After project completion, or prior to the next grant intake, grant recipients may be asked to publish or submit a simple report sharing the story of how the Community Grant benefited Orangeville residents. This will be decided and coordinated by Town staff. The report format used for the Dufferin County grants can be found on the HCIA website under Community Grants, and may provide a useful template.

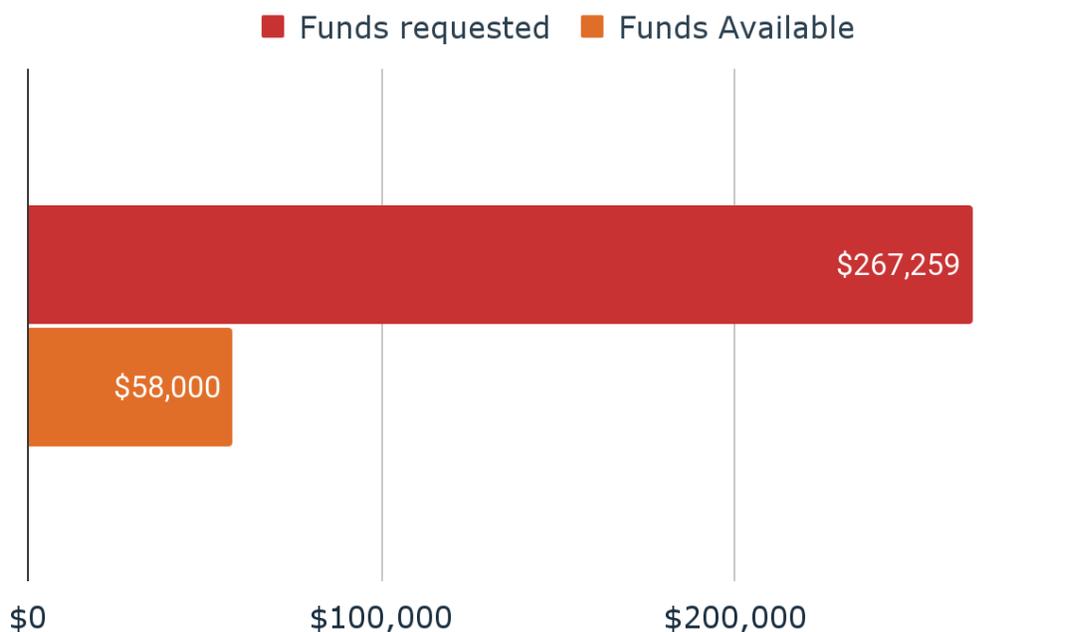
### C. Project Summary Tables and Charts

The following tables and charts summarize the applications received and grant recommendations for 2025.

#### Summary Table 1 - Total Requests and Recommended Funds

Available funds	# Applications received	Total funds requested	# Grants recommended	Total funds recommended	Funds remaining
\$58,000	33 Total	\$267,259.16 4.6 x available funds	25 Total	\$58,000	\$0

#### Chart 1: Funds Requested vs. Available



## Summary Table 2 - Recommended Grants

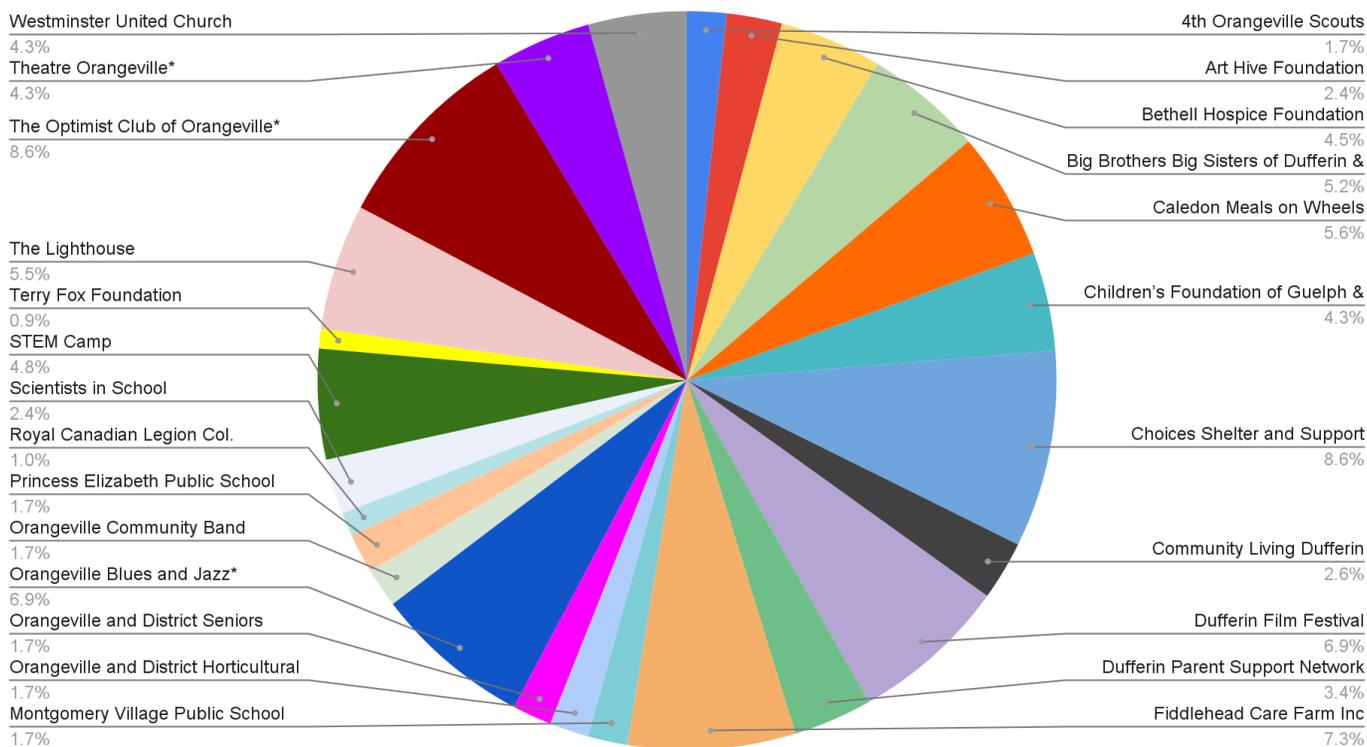
	Applicant	\$ Requested	\$ Recommended
1	4th Orangeville Scouts	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
2	Art Hive Foundation	\$5,000.00	\$1,400.00
3	Bethell Hospice Foundation	\$7,500.00	\$2,600.00
4	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin & District	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00
5	Caledon Meals on Wheels	\$6,500.00	\$3,250.00
6	Children's Foundation of Guelph & Wellington	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00
7	Choices Shelter and Support Services	\$15,000.00	\$5,000.00
8	Community Living Dufferin	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00
9	Dufferin Arts Council	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
10	Dufferin County OPP/Orangeville Fire	\$869.16	\$0.00
11	Dufferin Film Festival	\$8,000.00	\$4,000.00
12	Dufferin Parent Support Network	\$10,000.00	\$2,000.00
13	Engineers of Tomorrow	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
14	Fiddlehead Care Farm Inc	\$14,250.00	\$4,250.00
15	Friendship Gardens - Headwaters Health Care Centre	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
16	Lord Dufferin IODE	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
17	Montgomery Village Public School	\$10,000.00	\$1,000.00
18	Orangeville and District Horticultural Society	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
19	Orangeville and District Seniors Centre*	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
20	Orangeville Blues and Jazz*	\$10,000.00	\$4,000.00
21	Orangeville Community Band	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
22	Orangeville Headwaters Minor Baseball Association	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
23	Pine River Institute	\$2,500.00	\$0.00

24	Princess Elizabeth Public School (School Council)	\$5,000.00	\$1,000.00
25	Royal Canadian Legion Col. Fitzgerald Branch 233	\$1,500.00	\$600.00
26	Scientists in School	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
27	STEM Camp	\$5,000.00	\$2,800.00
28	Terry Fox Foundation	\$500.00	\$500.00
29	The Lighthouse	\$6,240.00	\$3,200.00
30	The Optimist Club of Orangeville*	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00
31	Theatre Orangeville*	\$3,500.00	\$2,500.00
32	Twisters	\$80,000.00	\$0.00
33	Westminster United Church	\$15,000.00	\$2,500.00
<b>Total Requested and Recommended</b>		<b>\$267,259.16</b>	<b>\$58,000.00</b>

\*Currently receive funds from multi-year grants or other Town support.

## Chart 2: Recommended Grants

Recommended Grants 2025



## II. Grant Assessment Summary

The assessment process takes a holistic approach, giving consideration to several factors that collectively represent what we colloquially refer to as the “Head, Heart and Hands” scores.

**Head:** Are the eligibility criteria met? Does the proposal make sense? Is the budget reasonable? Is the organization credible and stable enough, while demonstrating financial need for the request?

**Heart:** Is the cause compelling and the community need clearly stated? Does the proposed activity clearly demonstrate benefit for the proposed target population?

**Hands:** Is the plan and timeline for completing the activities reasonable? Does the organization demonstrate that they have the capacity – staff, volunteers, partners, in-kind support – to carry out the plans and achieve the objectives as proposed?

All applications were assessed for their alignment to the stated Town of Orangeville strategic priorities and values. The Town has identified the following as its current strategic priorities and core values:

### Strategic Priorities:

- Corporate Capacity
- Future Readiness
- Community Vitality
- Economic Resilience

### Core Values:

- Professional
- Holistic
- Open
- Inclusive
- Empowering

Applications were scrutinized for completeness, accuracy in answering the questions and compliance with eligibility criteria. Other considerations included:

- **Competition:** This is a competitive process. Funding requests may be recommended in full, in part or declined, at the discretion of the assessment committee, with final decisions to be made by the Town Council. Recommendations were made after careful consideration of all factors as well as the overall mix of projects proposed and distribution of funds, making side-by-side comparison of applications on specific criteria impractical. **2025 requests exceeded available funds by 361%.** Put another way, requests were more than 4.6 times the funds available.

- **Partial or no funding:** When recommending partial or no funding, consideration was given to:
  - amount of competing requests
  - overall merits of the application; fit with criteria and priorities
  - organization, mandate and project objectives in alignment with priority areas
  - preference for organizations and programming located in Orangeville
  - uniqueness of the program for the population served
  - perceived or demonstrated need and impact for Orangeville
  - likelihood of availability of other funding sources; financial health of the organization
  - whether the applicant already receives funding, in-kind or other support from the Town, although this is not disqualifying
  - where possible, the partial amount was determined based on items listed in the budget that would contribute to project success
  - **Rationale:** the following categories were used to provide rationale for partial or no funding recommendations:
    - competing requests
    - eligibility concerns
    - merits of the application
    - need not demonstrated
    - benefit not demonstrated
    - budget not clear
    - plan not clear
  - If any applicant wishes to discuss the recommendations from the Assessment Team, they are invited to contact HCIA at [action@headwaterscommunities.org](mailto:action@headwaterscommunities.org)
- **Improving applications:**
  - Information sessions held in advance of the intake, FAQs posted on the Town website, and having both HCIA and Town staff available to answer questions from prospective applicants individually are helpful in contributing to a higher quality of applications. It is recommended that these options remain open to all applicants in future.
  - The Assessment Team suggested an additional workshop to assist prospective applicants with more in-depth coaching on grant-writing, as opposed to the overview of the Community Grants Program and process.
  - Handwritten application forms are more difficult to process, and fillable PDFs can be cumbersome for applicants. In future the Town may wish to offer an online form. HCIA has experience with this and can provide guidance if needed.

## Application Profiles

### 1. 4th Orangeville Scouts

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Scouts Canada aims to develop well-rounded youth who are better prepared for success in the world.

**How will the funds be used?** The \$2000 grant will be used to subsidise the annual Kub Kar Rally, benefiting approximately 100+ youth from the 4th Orangeville Scouts group.

**Requested Amount:** \$2,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$1,000

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

### 2. Art Hive Foundation

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** The Orangeville Art Hive seeks to empower participants through creative expression and connection with their community. We believe in the strength that emerges when communities are able to gather and learn from one another. The Orangeville Art Hive consistently seeks opportunities to connect community members of all ages and backgrounds and provide a safer space to build relationships through collective art making.

**How will the funds be used?** We are hoping to hire an art therapist to assist in facilitating our weekly Art Hive programme, as well as using these funds to provide art materials for the community to use.

**Requested Amount:** \$5,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$1,400

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

### 3. Bethell Hospice Foundation

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Bethell Hospice Foundation exists to raise funds to ensure the ongoing operation of Bethell Hospice in our community. Government funding through the Ontario Ministry of Health covers direct care medical staffing costs at Bethell Hospice. Every other cost is funded from donations. To keep the doors of Bethell Hospice open and all programs and services available at no cost to residents, community clients and their families, Bethell Hospice Foundation must raise at least 1.8 million each year.

**How will the funds be used?** As the sole provider of hospice palliative care in Dufferin County, as of late 2024, Bethell Hospice transitioned existing Dufferin County hospice palliative care clients to our organization. In 2025, we're amplifying our efforts to engage, educate and encourage residents in this area, through targeted local promotion and advertising sources. This will include, but is not limited to, media-buy through local businesses like The Orangeville Citizen, Our Routes, In the Hills and FM 101 Orangeville.

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**Requested Amount:** \$7,500

**Recommended Amount:** \$2,600

**Rationale:** Competing requests. Merits of the application. Benefit not clear. (of this advertising and impact on Orangeville; the organization and its services are valued)

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Would like to see the number of Orangeville residents served.

#### 4. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin & District

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Our mission is to enable life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of young people in Dufferin County. Our objective is to match children facing adversity with caring adult mentors who provide support and guidance.

**How will the funds be used?** The funds will support our Big Bunch program, which offers positive monthly group activities and nutritious meals to children awaiting a Big Brother or Big Sister, as well as those already matched with a mentor. The program fosters meaningful social connections among the children and adult volunteers, promoting a sense of community and belonging. Our primary goals are to enhance social skills, encourage physical activity, and create opportunities for outdoor experiences—all of which contribute to supporting the children's mental health and well-being. Some examples of our outings include a day of swimming, hiking, and canoeing at Rockwood Conservation Area, a fun "make-your-own pizza" and games night, a hike and picnic at Monora Park, and our Year-End Holiday Party.

**Requested Amount:** \$5,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$3,000

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

#### 5. Caledon Meals On Wheels

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Caledon Meals on Wheels is a community focused organisation dedicated to providing nutritious meals and support services to individuals unable to prepare or obtain meals for themselves. We focus on serving seniors, individuals with disabilities, and other vulnerable members of the community who may be homebound or have difficulty accessing food.

**How will the funds be used?** Caledon Meals on Wheels provides hot meals to clients living in Orangeville three days a week. Our hot meals are made from scratch by our chefs and delivered to clients by our volunteers. This grant will be used to assist us in purchasing fresh food for our meal service. All meals provide not only a hot meal but help to reduce isolation for many clients.

**Requested Amount:** \$6,500

**Recommended Amount:** \$3,250

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

## 6. Children's Foundation of Guelph & Wellington

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Children's Foundation is committed to ensuring every child and youth can thrive. Our Keep Kids Fed at School and Keep Kids Fed at Home programs provide nutritious meals at school and food support on weekends and during school breaks, ensuring no child goes hungry. We also fund mental health services, tutoring, and recreational activities, helping children build confidence and reach their full potential. Our holiday support program provides gifts and grocery gift cards to families in need. By reducing barriers and fostering connections, we create opportunities for all children to grow, learn, and succeed.

**How will the funds be used?** Funds for the Keep Kids Fed At School programme are used directly to purchase nutritious food for school nutrition programmes across Orangeville. We prioritise healthy, high quality food options to ensure students receive balanced meals that help them focus and thrive in the classroom. Funding is allocated to: fresh fruits and vegetables, protein rich food, whole grains, dairy and dairy alternatives and nut-free and allergy safe options.

**Requested Amount:** \$5,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$2,500

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

## 7. Choices Shelter and Support Services

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Our mission is to provide a safe and supportive resource within the Dufferin community that offers youth aged 16 to 24 years old and men 25+ years experiencing homelessness a path to a brighter future. Choices helps support their transition to a more productive and promising future.

**How will the funds be used?** The funds will be used to continue operations at the men's shelter. Currently, Choices Men's Shelter only has about 65% of operations funded, leaving us to fundraise at least 35%. Funding plans and fee for service contracts are starting but 2025/2026 will remain a year of uncertainty. This funding will make a big impact on our ability to continue to offer service until plans come to fruition.

**Requested Amount:** \$15,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$5,000

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** The need is clear; the impact /sufficiency of this funding is unclear, but worth supporting.

## 8. Community Living Dufferin

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** **Mission:** We are committed to creating an inclusive community where all individuals are accepted, valued for their uniqueness, and treated equitably. Our mission is to enable people with intellectual disabilities to achieve their fullest potential by providing a range of supportive services, advocacy, and opportunities that foster independence, social inclusion, and personal growth. Our purpose is to break down barriers that limit individuals with intellectual disabilities from accessing education, employment, community participation, and essential services.

**How will the funds be used?** This grant will be used directly for our Transportation Program as a vital component for individuals supported by Community Living Dufferin, as it directly impacts their ability to access essential services, maintain social connections, and participate in community activities. For many individuals with developmental disabilities, reliable transportation ensures they can attend medical appointments, educational programs, employment opportunities, and recreational activities, fostering independence and improving their quality of life. Raising funds for vehicles is crucial to ensure individuals have the mobility they need to live full, active lives, and contribute to building a more inclusive, supportive community.

**Requested Amount:** \$3,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$1,500

**Rationale:** Merits of the application.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Lack of detail in budget for how the funds would be used specifically.

## 9. Dufferin Arts Council

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** The mission of the Dufferin Arts Council is to enrich the community by actively supporting the arts and artists through communications, resources for learning, cultural programs and partnerships thereby strengthening the arts through leadership, education, advocacy and promotion.

**How will the funds be used?** Building on last year's successful launch of our new website, DAC aims to extend further benefits to the arts community by building a resource section that provides artists and art organizations with a central point to locate a number of resources, benefits, and information that would support their business, growth or capacity.

**Requested Amount:** \$2,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$0

**Rationale:** Competing requests. Merits of the application. Benefit not clear.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Specific benefit to Orangeville residents not clear.

## 10. Dufferin County OPP/Orangeville Fire

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Our mission is to donate as much money as possible to the Orangeville Food Bank and Dufferin Child and Family Services [through funds raised from the charity hockey game].

**How will the funds be used?** The funds will be used to pay off the booking of ice time at Alder Arena for a charity hockey game.

**Requested Amount:** \$869.16

**Recommended Amount:** \$0

**Rationale:** Eligibility concern.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Applicant was determined ineligible in 2024: is not a not-for-profit, charity or youth organization, nor partnered with one; past event expense reimbursement.

## 11. Dufferin Film Festival

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** The Dufferin Film Festival celebrates independent storytelling by providing a platform for filmmakers while enriching Orangeville's cultural and creative landscape. Through screenings, workshops, and networking events, the festival fosters community engagement, supports local artists, and attracts visitors, boosting the local economy. It aligns with Orangeville's cultural and economic development goals by offering accessible arts programming and educational opportunities. Committed to sustainability, the festival seeks diverse funding sources to ensure continued impact and growth.

**How will the funds be used?** These funds will be used toward supporting the base needs to execute the event which includes rental of a projection system and audio-visual support for the Orangeville Opera House. This rental is the most expensive and absolutely necessary component of the festival. The films being displayed need a high-quality projection system and more sound support than is currently in the Opera House. Without this, we would be unable to run the festival as the screening is the key component.

**Requested Amount:** \$8,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$4,000

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

## 12. Dufferin Parent Support Network

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** The Parent Support Network's mission is to encourage, educate and support parents of school-aged children by providing opportunities to build positive parenting skills and healthy community connections. We believe that families and children are the critical building blocks of any community, and when we strengthen the well-being of parents, we help create more resilient and thriving communities.

**How will the funds be used?** The Parent Support Network is requesting \$10,000 to help continue our work of providing 28+ free parenting workshops annually, which benefit nearly 600 parents, caregivers and professionals in Orangeville and the surrounding area.

**Requested Amount:** \$10,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$2,000

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Recommended amount in line with 2024 support.

## 13. Engineers of Tomorrow

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Our mission is to inspire future engineers by highlighting engineering's role in driving societal change. We bridge the gap between theoretical STEM education and real-world applications, focusing on accessibility for underrepresented and marginalized students. We provide hands-on learning opportunities, mentorship programs, and targeted initiatives to promote diversity while building partnerships between schools, professionals, and communities.

**How will the funds be used?** Funding will expand free STEM programs in Orangeville and rural communities by recruiting engineer volunteers and developing hands-on projects like the Future City Experience. This initiative will engage 100 students, particularly girls and marginalized youth, in designing cities of the future. The investment aims to inspire future engineers through mentorship and career exploration.

**Requested Amount:** \$10,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$0

**Rationale:** Merits of the application. Benefit not clear. Budget not clear.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Benefit to Orangeville not clear vs. national; local resource is in Guelph. Budget lacks detail on how funds will be spent.

#### 14. Fiddlehead Care Farm Inc.

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Fiddlehead Care Farm (FCF) is a non-profit Care Farm in Dufferin County. FCF's mission is to provide clinical and therapeutic services to children, young adults and their families through animal-assisted Care Farming. Our vision is: Healthier families through care farming.

**How will the funds be used?** Fiddlehead Care Farm will provide mental health support to children, youth and their families from the Orangeville area using animal-assisted therapy (AAT) and nature-based interventions. The care farming model is an innovative and effective way to support families and teach coping skills to children and youth. The Community Grant would allow us to offer these one-on-one counselling services at a rate of \$150 per one hour session in the unique care farming environment. This is a significantly reduced rate compared to other counselling services in the area.

**Requested Amount:** \$14,250

**Recommended Amount:** \$4,250

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Not located in Orangeville. States % of clients from Orangeville but not a number to assess reach. Need is clear.

#### 15. Friendship Gardens - Headwaters Health Care Centre

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Our mission is to build and maintain the 20 gardens and hundreds of saplings and trees for the enjoyment of patients, staff, and families, and to help enrich the community with carefully selected pollinator plants and trees.

**How will the funds be used?** The funds will be used to hire an expert to dig, remove, and eradicate invasive Phragmites that is in our stormwater management pond and is now growing up the hillside beside Highway 10. Our water flows north towards the flag pole where the Credit River originates, so this project will help to prevent further spread of the invasive plant.

**Requested Amount:** \$5,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$0

**Rationale:** Merits of the application. Budget not clear. Availability of alternates (e.g. CVC).

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**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Budget lacks a detailed breakdown. Impact of partial funding uncertain among many competing requests.

## 16. Lord Dufferin IODE

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** The mission of the IODE Lord Dufferin Chapter is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals through education support, community service, and citizenship programs. Our purpose is to promote education of all kinds, and particularly the study of history. The objectives of our chapter are to continue our longstanding support of those in our community who are in need through our donations to Headwaters Hospital Foundation, Food Bank Orangeville, the Town of Orangeville Library, and Salvation Army Orangeville as well as providing bursaries to Orangeville schools for Grade 8, 10 and 12 students.

**How will the funds be used?** We are requesting these funds to support our school bursary program, which provides funds to students in grade 8, 10 and 12; and to expand our outreach by supporting Orangeville school nutrition programs.

**Requested Amount:** \$2,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$0

**Rationale:** Merits of the application. Eligibility concern.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Flow through funds (bursaries and school nutrition programs run by others).

## 17. Montgomery Village Public School

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Our mission is to provide physical and mental enrichment to the youth of Montgomery Village Public School and the community by providing a playground for school use (and summer use for locals).

**How will the funds be used?** The funds will be used for a Grade 2 to 8 playground.

**Requested Amount:** \$10,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$1,000

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Quality plan. School boards do not supply playground equipment. Small show of support in line with past school yard equipment contributions.

## 18. Orangeville and District Horticultural Society

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** We are a member of District 7 under the Ontario Horticultural Association. Our mission is to share the knowledge and love of horticulture with all. Our motto is "Gardens are for sharing".

**How will the funds be used?** The funds will be used towards our community outreach programme, "The Opportunity Garden". This project is a joint collaboration between Am Braigh Farms and Branching Out Support Services. We teach neurodivergent adults how to grow pea shoots and in turn, when harvested, the pea shoots are bagged and donated to the Orangeville Food Bank.

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**Requested Amount:** \$2,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$1,000

**Rationale:** Merits of the application.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Need established and good impact for small investment. Budget lacked detail on what funds would be used for specifically.

## 19. Orangeville and District Seniors Centre

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** The Orangeville Seniors Centre provides opportunities for social interaction amongst older adults. To introduce and promote a varied programme for recreation, education and culture. To foster the development of skills and knowledge of seniors in the town and district and reduce social isolation.

**How will the funds be used?** The funds will be used to offer a social event for seniors at the centre, featuring local and regional talent that they enjoy. Taxi credits would be provided to those needing a way to get to the event (limit funds).

**Requested Amount:** \$2,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$1,000

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Benefit is clear. Group is good at doing events at low cost benefitting a large number of people.

## 20. Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** The Festival's mission, purpose and objectives is to promote an appreciation of blues and jazz music by producing an annual major community-based music festival and related events with a strong focus on promoting local artists and ensuring accessibility for the entire community.

**How will the funds be used?** The funds will be used to fund a portion of the operating and production costs for the 2025 Festival taking place in Downtown Orangeville from May 30 - June 1, 2025.

**Requested Amount:** \$10,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$4,000

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Already receive support from the town. Benefit of the event to the town is well established. Application is not for specific items.

## 21. Orangeville Community Band

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** With a strong sense of community and an absolute commitment to music, the Orangeville Community Band embarks on a journey of teaching and performing music suitable for all ages. We are committed to reaching all age groups, welcoming a diverse audience, and including all in our band.

**How will the funds be used?** The funds will be used to help with payment of two band directors who job-share. It will also be used to assist with the cost of storage of the band's music.

**Requested Amount:** \$2,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$1,000

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Need established. Youth involved.

## 22. Orangeville Headwaters Minor Baseball Association

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Orangeville Headwaters Minor Baseball Association is dedicated to advancing the cause of baseball in the area. Our mission is to foster sportsmanship, ensure a safe playing environment, and safeguard the interests of all players.

**How will the funds be used?** The funds will be used to cover startup costs for our two new programmes, challenger baseball and a girls softball league. It will cover the cost of equipment and field upgrades.

**Requested Amount:** \$10,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$0

**Rationale:** Merits of the application.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Idea is good but plan for program lacks detail. Impact of partial funding unlikely.

## 23. Pine River Institute

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Pine River Institute helps adolescents struggling with addictive behaviours and other mental health issues to reclaim their lives, their families, and their futures. We provide high-quality, family-centered live-in youth treatment, research, and education. The program includes an outdoor leadership experience and live-in treatment for youth aged 13-19, working with their parents/caregivers. Our main campus is in Hornings Mills, north of Orangeville. We offer ongoing support following graduation through an Aftercare program. Pine River also provides education and training across Ontario in the family model of youth treatment, to school boards, hospitals, community organizations, reaching more than 10,000 over the past three years. Pine River is the only program of its kind in Canada providing a holistic treatment program that includes families.

**How will the funds be used?** This grant will support student-led environmental initiatives on the Pine River campus. Students are keen to refurbish the existing greenhouse, which is in need of repair. A stable and functioning greenhouse will allow them to generate productive soil, to plant seeds and render seedlings, which will then be planted in the Butterfly Way, an area of planting that will attract butterflies, and in vegetable and flower gardens around campus to attract butterflies, songbirds and bees. The students harvest vegetables throughout the growing season which are prepared in the Pine River kitchen for meals for students and staff. The grant will also allow for the purchase of seeds, topsoil, tools, planters, lumber and hardware for the project. The green house, gardens, Butterfly Way and other outdoor activities are central to the students'

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learning and healing work at Pine River.

**Requested Amount:** \$2,500

**Recommended Amount:** \$0

**Rationale:** Competing requests. Eligibility concern.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Generally good proposal and great program. Not located in Orangeville and benefit to Orangeville residents not established (no stats provided on number of Orangeville residents/families).

## 24. Princess Elizabeth Public School

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** The Princess Elizabeth Public School Mission Statement is: \*Positive Environment for students, staff and community; \*Equality of expectations and opportunity for success; \*Participation as we strive toward our personal best in scholarship and citizenship; \* Sense of ownership with pride and respect in self, school and community." The School Council mission is to provide a collaborative forum among parents, caregivers, guardians, and staff, to build and foster the spirit of community and nurture an environment of open communication to support the guiding principles of the school.

**How will the funds be used?** We are requesting funding for the replacement of the Kindergarten playground, a vital community resource that serves both the school and local families. The current playground, installed nearly 15 years ago, is nearing the end of its lifespan and will need to be removed once deemed unsafe in the next 2-3 years. A survey of our school community showed overwhelming support for a new playground, highlighting the importance of a safe space for children's physical development. The estimated cost for the new playground is approx. \$60,000, and we have been raising funds since 2022. The playground will provide a safe, age-appropriate environment for students and the children in the community.

**Requested Amount:** \$5,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$1,000

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** School boards do not supply playground equipment. Small show of support in line with past school yard equipment contributions.

## 25. Royal Canadian Legion Branch 233

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** The Legion is a democratic, non-partisan, member based organization. We endeavour to make a difference in the lives of Veterans, including Military and RCMP members and their families. We strive to support our community and our Country. Always remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Country.

**How will the funds be used?** To offset operational cost for entertainment, and administrative cost for licensing.

**Requested Amount:** \$1,500

**Recommended Amount:** \$600

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

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**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Music shows benefit the community. Valuable service.

## 26. Scientists In School

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Our Mission is to ignite scientific curiosity in children so that they question intelligently; learn through discovery; connect scientific knowledge to their world; are excited about STEM; and have their interest in careers in those fields piqued. We do this through three program streams: Classroom workshops, supporting and supplementing the elementary science curricula with hands-on learning activities; Community workshops, partnering with youth groups to bring age-appropriate investigative activities to their participants, and; Family Science Program, bringing the school community together to conduct experiments as a family and share STEM learning experiences

**How will the funds be used?** This grant will allow us to provide four interactive STEM community workshops (\$1,260) to over 80 children who attend community groups such as libraries, Big Brothers Big Sisters, summer camps and more in Orangeville, plus \$140 to support the hours of outreach that is required to place and coordinate these workshops.

**Requested Amount:** \$1,400

**Recommended Amount:** \$1,400

**Rationale:** n/a

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Plans in Orangeville established; statistics provided. Good value, free sessions. Budget reasonable.

## 27. STEM Camp

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** STEM Camp is a Canadian non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring youth in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics through summer camps. Our mission is to help address future labour shortages in these fields. We believe that every child, regardless of their background, has the potential to become the next professional or entrepreneur in a STEM career. By nurturing their curiosity and skills at a young age, we hope that as they grow older, these children will choose to pursue local career opportunities, contributing to their communities rather than seeking work in larger city centers. Our responsibility is to create spaces where these children can explore their potential and develop the confidence to pursue STEM careers in their own communities.

**How will the funds be used?** The funding will be used to send underprivileged children to camp. STEM Camp is a federally registered non-profit summer camp that has been providing services across Ontario since 2014. The camp is designed to inspire children in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and motivate them to pursue these areas of study, helping to address the labor shortage in STEM fields. STEM Camp will utilize the funds to send children from marginalized families who need financial assistance or face racial or gender-based barriers to camp.

**Requested Amount:** \$5,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$2,800

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

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**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Budget is for incremental support for additional students to participate locally. Life-changing experiences for kids.

## 28. Terry Fox Foundation

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Driven by Terry Fox' courage and determination, we collaborate with and inspire people around the world to support and fundraise for bold, extraordinary research to end cancer. Our vision is to bring people together to realise Terry Fox's dream of a world without cancer.

**How will the funds be used?** Funds will be used to pay the fee for our run site at Island Lake conservation area, as well as providing post run refreshments for participants.

**Requested Amount:** \$500      **Recommended Amount:** \$500

**Rationale:** n/a

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Small amount to support a local site in Orangeville for a high profile event. Otherwise community benefit is less strong.

## 29. The Lighthouse

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** We are dedicated to addressing the challenges of homelessness and food insecurity.

**How will the funds be used?** These funds will provide one meal per day for two individuals for one year.

**Requested Amount:** \$6,240      **Recommended Amount:** \$3,200

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Strong local benefit, good program, no barriers, all ages. Concern about viability, large shortfall, other fundraising.

## 30. The Optimist Club

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Our mission is to "bring out the best in kids". We organise and participate in hands-on interactive projects for our young people. We are a non-profit service club dedicated to enriching the lives of children in our community.

**How will the funds be used?** The year 2025 will be our 33rd year of hosting *Christmas in the Park*. Funding will be used to purchase replacement and additional lighting, build additional displays and repair existing displays. Funds will also be put towards permanent additions to the park itself to expand the drystone art structure by Eric Landman with an additional permanent lighting display.

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**Requested Amount:** \$10,000

**Recommended Amount:** \$5,000

**Rationale:** Competing requests.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Already receives support from the town. Benefit to Orangeville established. This incremental amount brings support in line with prior years.

### 31. Theatre Orangeville

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Theatre Orangeville is a not-for-profit theatre organization that brings the magic of live professional theatre to the Town of Orangeville and Dufferin County. Our artistic vision guides every aspect of our company and through our commitment to enrich the community with a theatre experience, that showcases the development of new Canadian works, created by Canadian playwrights and performed by Canadian actors; to provide youth unique mentoring opportunities to transform their lives through the performing arts; to provide creative opportunities that grow the cultural experience through community partnerships; and to nurture diversity, promote acceptance and celebrate all abilities. Every year, Theatre Orangeville welcomes school-aged children, K to Grade 12, from Orangeville and throughout Dufferin County to attend the theatre where productions are designated as appropriate for either primary, junior, intermediate, or secondary levels.

**How will the funds be used?** Theatre Orangeville believes all youth deserve the chance to access the positive impact that Performing Arts can have in transforming their lives. Every season we offer our youth the opportunity to learn, engage and find connections. Our summer KidsFEST is one such opportunity. To ensure financial accessibility for all, we offer tickets at \$5 per person, and children two and under free of charge. To accomplish this, funding through the Community Grant would be used to help cover a portion of KidsFEST artists fees enabling us to offer the low event ticket price.

**Requested Amount:** \$3,500

**Recommended Amount:** \$2,500

**Rationale:** Competing requests. Availability of alternates.

**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Strong proposal, great program. Already receive support from the town.

### 32. Twisters

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** Twisters Gymnastics and Trampoline Club's mission is to develop athletes in the sport of gymnastics in a manner that encourages each athlete to reach their full potential in a safe, healthy, and positive environment. We build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities in spirit, mind and body.

**How will the funds be used?** The funds will be used to update and replace outdated and malfunctioning equipment, enabling us to continue providing a safe and nurturing environment while maintaining a competitive edge for our athletes. We are currently using the original gymnastics floor, which needs to be replaced if we are to continue developing high level athletes and hosting elite level gymnastics competitions that attract athletes from across Ontario.

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**Requested Amount:** \$80,000**Recommended Amount:** \$0**Rationale:** Competing requests. Impact of partial funding. Availability of alternates.**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Good program and benefit to Orangeville. Impact of a partial amount on this requirement is unlikely. Alternative funding sources may be better suited for this large project.

### 33. Westminster United Church

**Mission, purpose and objectives:** “Nurturing mind, body, and soul in the community” – Westminster is a leader in spiritual wellness in the Orangeville community. We aim to nurture the mind, body and soul through compassion, inclusivity, and togetherness. Westminster provides many programs that focus on social justice and community outreach. We are known as a place with an inspiring message, remarkable music, generosity and compassion. Many community groups meet at Westminster. It is a 7 day a week activity hub. The Westminster “Kitchen Table” program seeks to provide food and connection and food security skills. Sharing food helps people learn to be hospitable, to welcome and to care for each other. This is the central idea of “The Kitchen Table” program and each component piece continues to grow and deepen as relationships develop, needs change, and resources expand.

**How will the funds be used?** Westminster has started a movement of addressing climate change, food insecurity, and the loneliness epidemic in our community through a massive garden transformation project. Westminster is requesting \$15,000 to install a permanent outdoor green wall to address climate change and food insecurity. We will offer workshops on green walls and how they can reduce a building’s carbon footprint and how to grow food vertically. Westminster will also offer fresh food grown on the green wall to the community through grazing and through our emergency food cupboard, as well as offer produce to the Food Bank.

**Requested Amount:** \$15,000**Recommended Amount:** \$2,500**Rationale:** Competing requests. Merits of the application. Impact of partial funding.**Notes from the Assessment Team:** Interesting idea among many innovative programs. No estimate of reach or number of residents who may be impacted, although regular traffic to the location is established. Alternate funding sources may be available for this type project.

### III. Conclusion

The 2025 Orangeville Community Grants Program brought a number of quality applications and a variety of good projects and programs that were well aligned with the Town of Orangeville's priority areas. Our Assessment Team of community members represented a mix of backgrounds and experiences, making for valuable dialog and well-calibrated scoring results. The Assessment Team feels confident that their recommendations include a good balance of project types, causes and priority areas, and that all will be of benefit to Orangeville in various important ways. All recommended recipients are providing vital services to the community, and if it were possible to recommend them all to their full requirement, the Assessment Team would certainly be eager to do so. Even those that were not recommended for funding had some merit and general support from the group, and may have only been declined due to limited available funds and comparative quality of other applications. We wish all the successful recipients well in carrying out their activities and look forward to hearing about their successes and the impact of their grants.

On behalf of the Assessment Team and the Leadership Council of HCIA, we would like to thank the Council of the Town of Orangeville for entrusting this important task to us. We also thank Town staff for their guidance and partnership in setting this process up for success. We look forward to the next steps of watching the impact of this valuable work in our communities.

Yours in Community,



Jennifer Payne  
Executive Director  
Headwaters Communities In Action  
jennifer@headwaterscommunities.org