

Item 15.a.
Special Committee and Advisory Task Force
April 3rd, 2025

To: Mayor & Members of City Council

From: Woodstock Community Grants Advisory Committee

Re: 2025 Community Grant Program

AIM

To advise Council of the Committee's recommendation for allocating funds for the Spring intake of the 2025 Community Grants Program.

BACKGROUND

The Community Grants Advisory Committee met on March 25th to review and discuss applications for the 2025 Spring intake. A total of \$156,530.00 from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation revenue was available for disbursement. The community grant fund amount is based on 15% of the hosting fee from the OLG in the previous year.

COMMENTS

The City received 21 applications for Community Grants with a total requested amount of \$184,725.00. An initial eligibility review was completed by staff based on Community Grants Policy GA003, and 15 applications were provided to the Community Grants Advisory Committee for review. The Committee reviewed the eligible applications and recommended a total funding of \$47,100.00 dispersed among 13 applicants as follows:

Organization	Purpose of Grant Request	Recommended Amount
13 th Woodstock Scouts	To keep the cost of camps reasonable for parents.	\$3,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County	To support our SOAR (Social Opportunities, Activities, and Relationships) program, a charitable and recreational initiative that provides mentorship and structured group-based activities for children and youth who are currently on our waitlist for a one-to-one mentoring relationship.	\$5,000.00
Oxford County Branch of Ontario Ancestors	To promote awareness and access of the Oxford Branch of Ontario Ancestors as the go-to location for family history and genealogy in Woodstock and Oxford County and to fund a print media campaign to promote Family History Month.	\$1,000.00

Organization	Purpose of Grant Request	Recommended Amount
Oxford County Trails Council	To fund our 2025 Trails Festival. The Trails Festival is organized to familiarize Woodstock residents with the location and amenities on local trails. It will offer interactive exhibits, including live animals such as local reptiles and birds (accompanied by professional, licensed handlers), seed planting, the need to limit non-recyclable waste, recycling, fish fly tying, and face painting for children.	\$1,000.00
Oxford Pride Committee	The Pride Family Day event has grown enormously over the past ten years, expanding to include over 70 vendors and thousands of attendees. To ensure the safety of our family day and story time events, we must hire several security guards and Woodstock police officers. The funds requested will assist with security measures at these two events specifically, as each event involves the safety of children.	\$5,000.00
Parent/Student Council of Friendly City Taekwon-Do	This grant will assist the families of our Taekwondo school in representing Woodstock at the Canadian National Tournament in May in Quebec. It will help our students and their families cover the costs of registration fees and some travel expenses. This tournament is especially important for the kids as it allows them to compete and show how much they have learned and grown.	\$1,500.00
Rotary Club of Woodstock - Festival of Music	To support the viability and sustainability of a well-established and highly participatory local Woodstock music festival organized and run by members of the Rotary Club of Woodstock, ORMTA (Oxford), and other volunteers. The grant helps to subsidize the festival.	\$5,000.00
Special Olympics Ontario - Woodstock	To help subsidize the costs associated with our program for our low- or limited-income athletes. Any financial assistance we receive will help subsidize the costs associated with our program for our low- or limited-income athletes. Our program runs on a not-for-profit basis with a projected deficit of \$ 9,600.00.	\$5,000.00

Organization	Purpose of Grant Request	Recommended Amount
Theatre Woodstock on behalf of STAGES Youth Theatre	To directly support a tuition assistance fund, helping to offset fees for families facing financial barriers. By supplementing our primary sources of income, which include sponsorships, advertising, donations, and standard tuition fees, this funding would allow us to maintain a sustainable program while ensuring that cost is never a barrier to participation.	\$5,600.00
Woodstock & District Development Services	Funds will be used for a 6-week summer camp for youth with developmental disabilities aged 10-21 in Oxford County. With limited programs available in the community to address the needs of these young people, WDDS must actively fundraise to operate this non-ministry-funded camp. Funds will be used to supplement the operational costs and be used toward programming (activities, supplies, and accommodations)	\$5,000.00
Woodstock Dragon Boat Club	To support the expansion of our club and the revival of our Fun League. Our current life jackets and paddles have reached the end of their usable lifespan and need to be replaced. The grant funds will be allocated toward purchasing 40 new life jackets and 40 new paddles, each costing \$125 plus 13% tax. In addition to equipment replacement, the requested funds will support essential resources to help successfully relaunch the Fun League, making the sport more accessible and enjoyable for new and returning participants.	\$4,000.00
Woodstock Minor Ball Association	To support the Grassroots Growth of the Game, Welcoming Other Communities into the sport, supporting Coaching Excellence, and supporting Umpire Development	\$5,000.00
Woodstock Triathlon Club - Kids Du Committee	To provide an outdoor, athletic, and recreational opportunity for local children, consisting of activities (running and biking) that most children would be able to participate in. The financial request will provide prizes and mementos for all participants and increase the club's ability to sponsor some children who would not otherwise be financially able to participate.	\$1,000.00

If the recommended amount of grants is approved by Council, \$109,430.00 will remain in the community grants account for the 2025 Fall Intake in September of this year.

RECOMMENDATION

That in accordance with Community Grants Policy GA003, Woodstock City Council allocates the following grants for the 2025 Spring Intake:

Organization	Amount Awarded
13 th Woodstock Scouts	\$3,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County	\$5,000.00
Oxford County Branch of Ontario Ancestors	\$1,000.00
Oxford County Trails Council	\$1,000.00
Oxford Pride Committee	\$5,000.00
Parent/Student Council of Friendly City Taekwon-Do	\$1,500.00
Rotary Club of Woodstock - Festival of Music	\$5,000.00
Special Olympics Ontario - Woodstock	\$5,000.00
Theatre Woodstock on behalf of STAGES Youth Theatre	\$5,600.00
Woodstock & District Development Services	\$5,000.00
Woodstock Dragon Boat Club	\$4,000.00
Woodstock Minor Ball Association	\$5,000.00
Woodstock Triathlon Club - Kids Du Committee	\$1,000.00

Authored by: Cynthia Hislop, B. Arts, Clerks Services Coordinator

Approved by: Hillary Desmond, Chairperson, Community Grants Advisory Committee