



## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

**FROM:** Erin Burger – Community Development Supervisor, Special Events and Neighbourhood Engagement  
Heather Kaufmann – Community Development Supervisor, Community Partnerships and Sport Development  
Jennifer Spence – Environmental Stewardship Coordinator

**DATE:** March 31, 2026

**MEMO NO.:** CSE-2026-005

**SUBJECT:** 2026 Community Grant Program Allocations

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### **PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:**

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide Council with an overview of the 2026 Community Grant Program (CGP) allocations.

Per the Community Grant Program Policy (PLCY-2025-001), Town staff reviews applications and consults with leadership teams for funding recommendations. Funding requests under the program are also delegated to staff. Council receives an annual Memorandum on fund distribution.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Community Grant Program (CGP) is guided by the [Community Grant Program Policy](#) (PLCY-2025-001), approved by Council in July 2025. The policy establishes a consistent and transparent framework for how the Town provides strategic funding support to community groups, organizations, and residents delivering activities, events, and initiatives that align with the Town's strategic priorities.

The program may provide support either through fee waivers (such as facility rental permits, road occupancy permits, or the use of municipally owned equipment) or through financial contributions to cover specific project costs, including equipment

purchases, rental fees, contractor fees, marketing and promotional materials, and resources that enhance organizational development. Funding can also be provided for projects enabling groups to take community action that supports the Town's Strategic Plan.

The CGP is structured to ensure coordination within Community Development and Environment to prevent the duplication of requests and to ensure that investments are allocated appropriately within each funding stream. The four funding streams include:

- Community Investments
- Environmental Stewardship
- Neighbourhood Projects
- Special Events

As a key tool for fostering community building, engagement, and enhancing the environmental health of Halton Hills, the CGP supports both longstanding and emerging initiatives. In many instances, this support is essential to advancing projects, and maintaining the scale and viability of community programs, activities and events. In addition to delivering community benefits, projects supported by the Town also leverage their investment by contributing volunteer time and securing additional funding from other sources, resulting in a greater overall investment in the community.

Without the Town's support via the CGP, many of the community initiatives and events would not be feasible.

## **COMMENTS:**

### **1.0 Promotion of the Program**

The 2026 CGP application intake opened in January, with a submission deadline of February 27, 2026. This opportunity was promoted to the public through The Current newsletter, a Council announcement, Town media release, a dedicated Town webpage, the eFun newsletter, social media posts, and direct outreach to more than 230 community contacts affiliated with local organizations.

Staff from Community Development and Environment also hosted an Open House at the Mold Masters SportsPlex on Thursday, January 29, 2026, which saw strong attendance (19 organizations) and generated positive feedback. This open house helped build awareness around the program, allowed for discussion of ideas, provided networking opportunities and strengthened community connections.

Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants were encouraged to connect with Town staff to discuss their proposed activities, events, or initiatives through one-on-one consultation calls prior to submission. Town staff estimate that approximately 45 community groups/members participated as part of this process.

## **2.0 Application Intake & Scoring Process**

The 2026 CGP followed a structured and transparent review process to ensure fairness and alignment with the program policy and corresponding guidelines. Each funding stream has its own scoring committee and is composed of Town staff and/or community partners who are chosen based on their expertise and relevant professional experience. Committee members who have pecuniary interests must declare this and those members then abstain from related discussions.

The process starts with Town staff reviewing applications for eligibility and completeness, prior to sharing them with members of the scoring committee for review. Committee members independently score applications using a standardized matrix. The scores are then ranked, and committee members then collectively discuss the applications to confirm funding recommendations.

In funding streams where the number of eligible applications exceeds available funding, a funding approval line is established. This ensures that allocations are prioritized based on scoring and committee recommendations, while remaining within the approved budget for each stream.

Following committee review, Town staff notify all applicants of their application outcome, as per the approved CGP Policy.

In total, the 2026 CGP intake received:

- \$203,760 in total funding requested (\$150,700 available)
  - Program oversubscribed by about 36% or \$53,750
- 65 applications, specifically:
  - 31 special event applications
  - 21 community investment applications
  - 8 environmental stewardship applications
  - 5 neighbourhood project applications.

Of the above applications, 50 have been approved and applicants have been notified of their grant allocations. Among the 50 approved allocations, 17 multi-year agreements were established with organizations delivering annual special events. Additionally, two allocations were provided to local BIAs in accordance with their MOUs.

### 3.0 Funding Outcomes and Allocation

The following tables provide an overview of the 2026 allocations, including both financial contributions and waiver of municipal fees:

<b>Community Investment Stream</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
<b>Georgetown Impact Volleyball Association</b> - Advanced Training for Coaches Project	\$2,480.00
<b>Halton Hills Minor Football Association</b> - Try Football Program Expansion Project	\$5,000.00
<b>Halton Hills Sports Hall of Fame</b> - Digital Transformation Project	\$5,000.00
<b>I Have Resolve</b> - Field Day Inclusive Expansion Project	\$1,500.00
<b>Light Up the Hills</b> - Volunteer Recruitment and Outreach Project	\$4,275.00
<b>Lions Club of Georgetown</b> - Santa Parade Float Rehabilitation Project	\$5,000.00
<b>North Halton Girls Hockey Association</b> - Set Coaches Up for Success Coaching Pack Project	\$3,750.00
<b>Roxy Centre</b> - Expanding Capacity for Free Community Lunches Project	\$3,960.00
<b>Stewarttown Community Association</b> - Volunteer, Marketing and Outreach Campaign for Increased Awareness Project	\$1,500.00
<b>Vintage Acton</b> - Historic Walking Tours – Equipment Updates and Upgrades	\$270.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,735.59</b>

<b>Environmental Stewardship Stream</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
<b>Acton Horticultural Society</b> – to support the redevelopment of “Max’s Garden” at Rotary Park.	\$2,300.00
<b>Downtown Georgetown BIA</b> – to support the revitalization of downtown Georgetown gardens at entrance signs.	\$1,000.00
<b>Glen Williams Community Association</b> – to support the delivery of Shelagh Law Parkette, Phase 3 revitalization.	\$2,500.00
<b>Halton Hills Turtle Guardians</b> – to support building nesting boxes and transporting rescued eggs/hatchlings.	\$2,500.00
<b>Trees for Halton Hills</b> – to support the delivery of arboretum signage and tree plantings and the delivery of a tree forum.	\$4,807.00
<b>Willow Park Ecology Centre</b> – to support the delivery of a gardening workshop and the delivery of an Earth Day Event.	\$3,200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,307.00</b>

<b>Neighbourhood Projects Stream</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
<b>Arborglen Drive Residents</b> – to support the delivery of their 2026 neighbourhood block party.	\$250.00
<b>Carruthers Road Residents</b> – to support the delivery of their 2026 neighbourhood block party.	\$250.00
<b>Oak Ridge Drive Residents</b> – to support the delivery of their 2026 neighbourhood block party.	\$250.00
<b>Stewarttown Community Association</b> – to support the delivery of their 2026 neighbourhood block party.	\$250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>

<b>Special Events Stream</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
<b>Acton Agricultural Society</b> – to support the delivery of the “Acton Fall Fair” event.	\$17,048.00
<b>Acton BIA</b> – to support the delivery of various BIA events.	\$2,500.00
<b>Acton Firefighters Association</b> – to support the delivery of the “Canada Day Fireworks” and “Acton Santa Claus Parade” events.	\$10,000.00
<b>Aditee Goswami</b> – to support the delivery of “Safe Haven: Raising Awareness of Domestic Violence”, “Georgetown Fall Multicultural Showcase and Diwali 2026” and “6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Georgetown Festival of Colour 2027” events.	\$3,000.00
<b>Bethel Christian Reformed Church</b> – to support the delivery of the “Bethel Carnival” event.	\$2,500.00
<b>Cancer Assistance Halton Hills</b> – to support the delivery of the “Tour the Hills” event.	\$2,500.00
<b>Drag Academy Artist Collective</b> – to support the delivery of the “Day of the Dead” event.	\$2,500.00
<b>Friends of the Old Seed House Garden</b> – to support the delivery of the “Music in the Garden” events.	\$1,000.00
<b>Georgetown Agricultural Society</b> – to support the delivery of the “Georgetown Fall Fair” event.	\$14,464.00
<b>Georgetown BIA</b> – to support the delivery of various BIA events.	\$2,500.00
<b>Georgetown Cruise Nights</b> – to support the delivery of the “Georgetown Cruise Night” events.	\$2,500.00
<b>Georgetown Highland Games</b> – to support the delivery of the “Highland Games” event.	\$9,530.00
<b>Georgetown Hospital Foundation</b> – to support the delivery of the “Georgetown Hospital Walk/Run”.	\$2,500.00

<b>Georgetown Ladies Powderpuff League</b> – to support the deliver of the “Dee Dee Haynes-Ridley Memorial Tournament.”	\$1,000.00
<b>Glen Williams Town Hall</b> – to support the delivery of the “Canada Day in the Glen” event.	\$5,000.00
<b>Halton Equity Diversity Roundtable</b> – to support the delivery of the “Helson Gallery After Dark” event.	\$2,500.00
<b>Halton Hills Service Club Collaborative</b> – to support the delivery of a modified “Head for the Hills Craft Beverage Festival” event in collaboration with the Georgetown BIA Palooza event.	\$2,500.00
<b>Kiwanis Club of Georgetown</b> – to support the delivery of their “Lobsterfest” event.	\$1,000.00
<b>Light up the Hills</b> – to support the delivery of the “Light up the Hills Ignition” event.	\$2,500.00
<b>Lions Club of Georgetown</b> - to support the delivery of the “95 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration” and “Georgetown Santa Claus Parade” events.	\$7,500.00
<b>Optimist Club of Halton Hills</b> – to support the delivery of the “Easter Egg Hunt”, “Cross-Country Run” and “Christmas Tree Lot” events.	\$3,000.00
<b>Sessionista Music Entertainment</b> – to support the delivery of “1 <sup>st</sup> Sessionista Summer Music Festival” event.	\$1,000.00
<b>Terry Fox Foundation (Acton Branch)</b> – to support the delivery of the “Acton Terry Fox Run.”	\$650.00
<b>Terry Fox Foundation (Georgetown Branch)</b> – to support the delivery of the “Georgetown Terry Fox Run.”	\$776.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$99,968.00</b>

Council approved a 2026 Community Grant Program (CGP) budget of \$150,700. The allocated funds noted above total \$150,010.59. The remaining \$689.41 will be used to support upcoming neighbourhood projects, as this funding stream’s application intake will remain open until all funds are allocated.

#### **4.0 Applications Not Supported and Funding Limitations**

While a substantial number of applications were approved for funding through the 2026 CGP, 15 applications (representing a total request of \$53,750 - approximately 36% more than the \$150,700 in approved funding) were not supported. This was primarily due to the program being oversubscribed relative to available funding.

Applications were not funded because they either received lower evaluation scores and/or did not meet program guidelines. In many cases, proposals did not demonstrate a significant or broad community benefit, lacked sufficient evidence of collaboration, joint planning, or meaningful community engagement, or did not clearly show financial need or the importance of CGP funding to the success of the activity.

Other applications were not funded because the proposed event was canceled after submission. Some were also deemed ineligible, as they did not meet program criteria and fell outside the scope of the grant guidelines.

The following table provides an overview of the 2026 applications that did not receive support through this year’s program. These applicants have been notified accordingly.

<b>2026 Community Grant Program Applications That Did Not Receive Funding</b>	<b>Requested Amount (\$)</b>
<b>Acton Skating Club</b> - Volunteer Recruitment and Marketing Project	\$5,000.00
<b>Cancer Crushfest</b> - Charity Softball Tournament	\$1,000.00
<b>Cyber Harassment Support</b> - Digital Safety for Every Age in Halton Hills	\$5,000.00
<b>Georgetown BIA</b> - Mural Project	\$5,000.00
<b>Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council</b> - Banner Project	\$5,000.00
<b>Globe Productions</b> - Marketing Campaign for Shows	\$5,000.00
<b>Halton Hills Interfaith Community</b> - World Religion Day Celebration	\$1,000.00
<b>Halton Hills Sports Hall of Fame</b> - Logo Project	\$5,000.00
<b>Kin Club of Halton Hills</b> - Christmas Tree Sales	\$500.00
<b>Lesh Tennis</b> - Girls Tennis Program	\$5,000.00
<b>Links 2 Care</b> - Community Hub for Senior Isolation Expansion	\$5,000.00
<b>Ontario Housing Stability Network</b> - Eviction Prevention and Housing Stabilization Project	\$5,000.00
<b>Rosemary Road Residents</b> – Neighbourhood Block Party	\$250.00
<b>Santas Helpers</b> - Christmas Gift Bags for Group Homes	\$5,000.00
<b>St. Alban’s the Martyr Anglican Church</b> - Peace for the World International Dinner	\$1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$53,750.00</b>

The high number of unfunded applications highlights both the popularity of the program and the limited resources of the CGP budget. In the future, Town staff may explore strategies to address oversubscription, such as increasing the overall program budget, adjusting maximum funding limits per stream, or introducing phased funding options for high scoring but unfunded applications. Such measures would allow the program to continue supporting innovative and emerging community initiatives while maintaining alignment with Council priorities and fiscal responsibility.

Should Council wish to provide funding to additional applicants that were not recommended for support through the 2026 CGP, staff would require direction to exceed the approved budget and a funding source for the additional shortfall would need to be identified.

## **CONCLUSION:**

The Town of Halton Hills remains committed to supporting local groups and organizations through a community development approach and the Community Grant Program. These groups play a vital role in supporting a high quality of life, enhancing community wellbeing, environmental stewardship, and community vibrancy and connectedness through their diverse activities, events, and initiatives of local importance. Council's Strategic Plan priorities are also advanced.

Demand for the CGP remains strong, with both the volume of applications and the total funding requested continuing to exceed the resources available through the Program. This demonstrates the ongoing and critical importance of this program, and the need to continue exploring strategies to maximize its impact and support for the community.

Reviewed and approved by,

Damian Szybalski, Commissioner of Community Services

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer