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## Wilmot approved for \$60,000 grant to boost community

Vital Grant will provide money for local groups that promote belonging

Bill Jackson  
Independent staff

Community groups, projects and events will soon be able to apply for expanded funding to help promote inclusion and quality of life here in Wilmot.

The township announced Thursday that it received a \$60,000 grant from the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation's (KWCF) Vital Grants program in support of multi-year projects that "move the needle" on belonging — the single most pressing issue for the region as identified in the foundation's annual Vital Signs report.

"We have split it up into kind of two streams of funding," explained Patrick Kelly, the township's manager of accounting.

One part of the grant money will help established organizations that work to create a sense of belonging, like helping out the elderly or youth that are living on the outskirts, he said.

The other stream will be used to assist events or projects as part of the "Discover Wilmot" initiative, which could, for example, include a festival, trail upgrades or a new parkette. "It's yet to be determined the total amount going to each, however there is an allocation that is going toward both," said Kelly.

Funds will be distributed during the next two years — \$30,000 in 2016 and \$30,000 in 2017 — coinciding with the townships annual grants-to-groups process. The township's ad hoc budget

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BILL JACKSON, INDEPENDENT STAFF

### Spooked at school

California Rhindress (left) and Sam Hild had the two most horror-ific costumes as chosen by their peers' cheers during a costume contest at Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School on Oct. 30.

## Students strike to protest lost extra-curriculars

Locals students' letter read at Queen's Park by MPP Michael Harris before teachers sign new deal

Scott Miller Cressman  
Independent staff

Students in Baden, Wellesley and New Hamburg weren't happy that they might have to lose school sports for the foreseeable future. So they did something about it.

Hundreds of students skipped

class on Oct. 28, instead opting to spend hours sitting in their hallways, intentionally oblivious to the ringing school bells. Students at Baden, Wellesley, Forest Glen and Sir Adam Beck Public Schools all participated in a strike to show their displeasure with the failed negotiations between the Ontario government and the

Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario.

A handful of Kitchener schools had started the protest trend last Monday. By Tuesday, word was circulating via Instagram that local students would do the same on Wednesday.

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