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Granting program focuses on volunteerism

GUELPH - The 2016 Oak Tree Project officially launched on May 6, inviting charitable agencies from Guelph/Wellington to compete for a portion of at least \$20,000 to be donated in September.

The 2016 Oak Tree project will focus on the best ideas from local charities to attract, develop and celebrate volunteerism individually and/or in collaboration with one another. The winning charity will receive a minimum of \$5,000 and all finalists will receive \$2,000.

"Our focus on strengthening volunteers in our community is a very personal one for us all. Our parents planted a seed in us at an early age that giving time and money is a responsibility and opportunity to build community," said Will Mactaggart, Oak Tree Project lead and director of wealth management at the local Richardson GMP office.

The Oak Tree Project was started by the Mactaggart family as a way to give back and strengthen community. Since its inception in 2014, over 40 charities have participated and over \$50,000 has been given away.

As its popularity grows, the Oak Tree Project is now a vehicle for corporate philanthropy for other companies wanting to support local charities.

The Oak Tree Project is different from other corporate giving programs as it relies on input and stories from the local community. CRA registered charities are invited to join the competition by June 6.

After that date, they will be encouraged to have friends and supporters nominate their

submission by sharing impact stories at theoaktreeproject.ca.

In mid-July, the top five agencies with the most community support will be announced and will be asked to submit additional information about their idea to a panel of com-

munity judges. The winner will be chosen at a finale event in September. In past years, the winning agency has taken home over \$6,500.

Contest details and specific dates can be found at TheOakTreeProject.ca.



Donation - Steve Wright, left, and WrightHaven Homes staff, in background, recently presented a \$50,000 cheque to Hugh Calderwood, chair of the Groves Hospital Foundation. The donation, which brings the new Groves hospital fundraising campaign above \$8-million mark, will name a large consulting room and two dietician consulting offices in the diabetes and patient education centre in the new hospital. The group is standing in front of WrightHaven's Net Zero home in Elora. Back row from left: Rebecca Short, Adriana Pozzobon, Kelly Epoch, Rachel Block, Wendy Clawsey, Roberto Vaca and Sean Marak. Front row: Lisa Daniel, William Cantin, Calie Kingscote, John Domnar, Scott Steep, Shayne Anderson and Robert Readyhough. photo by Olivia Rutt

Community invited to 'McCrae Day' celebrations

GUELPH - Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute (GCVI) is inviting members of the community to attend "McCrae Day."

On June 1, from 5:30 to 9pm the school is hosting an open house, featuring art, music, food and celebrations.

Last year, the school held McCrae Day to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the iconic war poem *In Flanders Fields* by Lt.-Col. John McCrae - they decided to make it an annual event.

The open house will feature a barbecue with hot food and

baked goods prepared by the school's hospitality class, as well as an art exhibition around the auditorium.

Inside the auditorium, many of the school's award-winning musical ensembles will perform. Performances will include a tribute to Prince and a musical number from the upcoming *Taming of the Shrew* production. There will be a 25-guitar medley and three different bands who just recently won medals at the MusicFest national competition will perform.

Members of the school

community and those who are interested in learning more about GCVI and the accomplishments of its staff and students are welcome to attend.

Through the "McCrae Day" open house, staff is hoping to raise funds for the school's McCrae Arboretum. Raffle tickets, t-shirts and food will be on sale, with all proceeds going to the arboretum.

GCVI is also fundraising by selling commemorative plaques for former students of the school who died in combat. The goal is to eventually have one plaque for each

soldier hanging in the arboretum. Individuals can sponsor a plaque for \$100, and the school will donate \$20 from each plaque to Wounded Warriors.

The hope is that the McCrae Arboretum will become a place to be enjoyed by all in the community, a place where people can sit and reflect and read the names of the soldiers who fought in the war.

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