

## Region to get \$1.5 million in Trillium Foundation Grants

Kitchener Record

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Date: July 28, 2010

Text Word Count: 901

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As part of its annual grant program, the Ontario Trillium Foundation announced today that 15 non-profit and charitable organizations in the region will receive almost \$1,498,900 in funding.

Many of the grants are intended to support new collaborations between local organizations as they work together to tackle shared challenges and needs in the community – like those of the Kitchener-Waterloo Multicultural Centre’s project Oral Familial or the Working Centre’s creation of a Multicultural Cinema Club.

The Waterloo Region Children’s Museum and the Creative Waterloo Region Services Organization each received a grant of \$225,000 over two years.

The museum received its funding to help in the rebranding process as it works to establish a new name – The Museum on King which will appear on the building around September 1 – and to increase its sustainability and diversity of programs.

David Marskell, The Museum’s chief executive officer, said the money will have a huge impact on the museum’s ability to grow.

This year, the museum received over \$470,000 from municipal governments to help in working toward sustainability.

“For the last couple of years we’ve worked really hard to have relevant programming. We’ve clearly become more than a children’s museum. We want to appeal to all age groups with our programming,” said Marskell and this new funding will help them to do just that.

The money from the Trillium Foundation will allow the museum to grow and to collaborate with other cultural groups in the community like the Homer Watson Gallery and the new History Museum.

The museum will hire a new sales director to maximize facility rentals and to bring in more tour groups and school visits from places like Buffalo, New York.

Marskell said it is initiatives like these that will increase the museum's earned income so they no longer depend on the investment of the municipalities.

The Creative Waterloo Region Services Organization is a project backed by the Prosperity Council, formally called the Creative Enterprise Enabling Organization. It will work to support the local creative sector and help it reach its full potential.

The chair of the board of the Enabling Organization, Roger Farwell, said the plan for this initiative has been in the works since 2003.

The goal is to support both the creative community in terms of arts and culture while also working with the information and innovation sectors in Waterloo Region.

He describes a crossroad at which creativity and innovation meet to create a Waterloo Region that is attractive to live and work in for generations to come.

It's that crossroad that his organization hopes to support.

"The feelings right now that people get when they think about the Perimeter Institute and CIGI and Stephen Hawking being here are creating tremendous momentum in this community. We want to foster that," said Farwell.

He says it will be easier for the region to attract doctors, researchers and big thinkers because the community's notoriety will draw people in.

But the organization is still in the process of getting its feet.

The funding will get things started by funding the hiring of a new chief executive officer and the implementation of the organization, including naming it and establishing permanent headquarters.

Farwell said of the major investment the Trillium Foundation has made to arts related enterprises that it is “punctuating the importance of this work at this point in time.”

He said the big organizations are important, but the smaller ones need attention, too.

The Trillium Foundation shows it recognizes this by granting \$23,000 to the Latitudes Storytelling Festival, an annual festival held in Victoria Park alongside the Kitchener-Waterloo Multicultural Festival.

Lori-Ann Livingston, the founder and chair of the board of directors for the festival, said she could not express the importance of this funding to their organization.

After starting essentially from scratch every year the purchase of a new computer and company cell phone – and hiring an artistic director – will have a huge impact on the capacity for the festival to grow said Livingston.

The festival will now be able to create a database with all of its donors, performers, sponsors and volunteers and will be better organized for the future.

“My dream has already come true that the festival runs every year. But this solidifies the festival,” as a staple in the community, said Livingston.

The grants are awarded in four categories, arts and culture, sports and recreation, environment and human and social services. There were no grants awarded in the environment category in Waterloo Region this year.

The other awards not mentioned above are listed under the relevant categories.

Arts and Culture:

Centre for Community Based Research \$60,000, one year

The Working Centre (as lead organization on the collaboration for the Multicultural Cinema Club) \$112,800, three years

Sports and Recreation:

Active Cambridge Fitness Program \$18,000, one year

Kinsmen Club of Waterloo-Grand River \$11,600, one year

Kitchener-Waterloo YMCA \$75,000, one year

Old Salts Seniors Canoe Club \$15,000, one year

Sunrise Therapeutic Riding and Learning Centre \$118,500, three years  
Human and Social Services: Brain Injury Association of Waterloo-Wellington  
\$119,600, two years

Hospice of Waterloo Region \$100,000, two years

Kitchener-Waterloo Multicultural Centre (as lead organization for a new collaborative called Oral Familial) \$148,700, two years

Nutrition for Learning \$98,000, two years

Portage Program for Drug Dependencies Inc. \$125,000, two years

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