

Applicant Name	Short Description
100 Women Who Care South Georgian Triangle	<p>The 100 Women Who Care South Georgian Triangle chapter seeks grant support to host four annual giving events in Collingwood, bringing community members together to collectively fund local registered charities. The chapter operates entirely through volunteers, with no membership dues or staff salaries, and all member donations are directed 100% to selected charities. Grant funds will cover project-related expenses tied to hosting the events, including website and software fees, marketing, and enhancements to the member experience that encourage participation and engagement.</p> <p>These events provide social benefits by increasing funding to local charities, fostering civic engagement, and strengthening community connections, aligning with the Town's strategic priorities of volunteerism, social inclusion, and community well-being. Past giving has supported organizations such as the Salvation Army, Collingwood Special Olympics, Hospice Georgian Triangle, and local food programs, with donations since 2017 totaling over \$622,000 and reaching thousands of residents. The chapter also promotes awareness of community needs, supporting informed and engaged citizens while sustaining and growing membership. Approximately 230 members participate in quarterly events, with the potential for broader community impact through media exposure and charity partnerships. By pooling donations and fostering collaboration, the project ensures maximum impact for local charities and long-term social benefit for the Town of Collingwood.</p>
Alpine Canada Alpin	<p>Alpine Canada (ACA) is seeking grant support to assist with costs associated with hosting the Ski Cross World Cup in Collingwood, a two-day, free, all-ages international event that has been held regularly in Ontario since 2010. The 2025 event attracted approximately 6,000 spectators and generated more than \$2 million in GDP, with an economic impact study indicating \$2.38 million in regional impact and an average visitor stay of 3.4 nights. ACA is committed to hosting the event annually in Ontario through 2027 and continues to build local capacity through volunteer development, training camps, officiating education, and athlete mentorship opportunities.</p> <p>The specific funding request will support a female-focused initiative titled "She Skis," which will invite 40 young girls to participate in race-week programming, including meeting World Cup athletes, receiving complimentary lift tickets and meals, and attending educational sessions led by industry leaders. The initiative will also involve 5–10 female coaches in a mentorship capacity. The event is free and open to the public, providing an accessible March Break activity for Collingwood residents while enhancing the Town's profile through national (CBC) and international broadcast coverage. ACA identifies both economic benefits and long-term sport development, particularly for young female athletes, as key community impacts of the event.</p>
Brad's Place Addiction Treatment	<p>Brad's Place Addiction Treatment of Southern Georgian Bay is seeking grant support to complete a one-time technology and data security upgrade to better serve youth, young adults, and families impacted by addiction and mental health challenges in Collingwood and the surrounding region. The project will provide four secure laptops with firewall and virus protection, two locking filing cabinets for confidential client records, and a large external hard drive for centralized, secure data storage. These resources are critical for maintaining client confidentiality, meeting privacy standards, and ensuring efficient, reliable service delivery for both in-person and remote care.</p> <p>This upgrade directly enhances Brad's Place's capacity to provide accessible, high-quality, and confidential services, supporting timely interventions and improved outcomes for vulnerable residents. By strengthening technology infrastructure and data management, the organization can serve more clients, protect sensitive information, and collaborate effectively with community partners. Social benefits include increased access to essential mental health and addiction services, crisis prevention, and support for families and youth facing barriers. Economic benefits include reducing long-term public costs by supporting early intervention and maximizing the impact of community resources. The project aligns with the Town's strategic priorities of promoting health and wellness, supporting youth, and fostering community partnerships. Approximately 30–40 residents will benefit directly from the upgraded services, with a broader community impact through improved capacity and care for vulnerable populations.</p>

<p>Collingwood Hockey FaceOff Against Hunger</p>	<p>The Collingwood Hockey FaceOff Against Hunger is a charity hockey tournament seeking in-kind support from the Town to cover ice rental, use of the Collingwood Sports Hall of Fame Room, and free parking for players and spectators. Last year's inaugural event featured four teams and approximately 60 players, raising \$36,000 that was distributed to three local non-profit organizations providing hunger relief in Collingwood. The 2026 event will expand to include two additional boys' teams and two girls' teams, increasing participation and fundraising potential.</p> <p>The tournament promotes social benefits by supporting local organizations that assist individuals facing food insecurity, fostering a sense of community, and encouraging residents to come together for a shared cause. It aligns with the Town's Community-Based Strategic Plan by enhancing connections, supporting safe and well communities, and encouraging collaborative efforts with local partners to address social needs. The event also engages residents directly, with an estimated 200–250 participants and spectators, while indirectly benefiting hundreds more through funds raised for local hunger relief programs. By providing a fun, inclusive, and community-focused event, the project strengthens civic engagement and reinforces Collingwood's culture of helping neighbours in need.</p>
<p>Collingwood Leisure Time Club</p>	<p>The Collingwood Leisure Time Centre is seeking grant support to purchase a new industrial dishwasher to replace the existing unit, which is over 15 years old and has become unreliable despite repeated repairs. This one-time capital investment will ensure the facility's kitchen is fully functional, supporting ongoing rentals and community programs. The Centre offers a range of activities, including art classes, seniors' health and fitness programs, and other cultural and community events, all of which rely on a well-equipped kitchen.</p> <p>Replacing the dishwasher will provide both social and economic benefits by enabling the Centre to continue serving approximately 700 members and up to 1,000 non-members weekly, while maintaining the quality and safety of rentals for external groups. It supports the Town's strategic priorities of fostering arts, culture, community engagement, and promoting healthy, active living. Funding from this project, supplemented by the Centre's annual Pie Auction income, will help maintain the facility's appeal and usability for a broad cross-section of residents. By ensuring the kitchen meets operational standards, the project enhances community programming, encourages facility use, and contributes to the long-term sustainability of the Centre.</p>
<p>Collingwood Music Festival</p>	<p>The 2026 Collingwood Music Festival (CMF) is the largest in its six-year history, running from July 6–18 and featuring 13 professional concerts, a five-day Youth Academy Masterclass, and three free outdoor Amphitheatre concerts. The Festival celebrates the power of choral and vocal music, showcasing diverse cultural traditions and connecting generations through collective singing. For the first time, the Festival expands to approximately 250 performers, with over 90% from Ontario, and includes world premieres, cross-cultural collaborations, and community participatory events such as a gospel workshop and a community choir finale.</p> <p>The Town of Collingwood grant will specifically support the three free Amphitheatre concerts, the gospel workshop, and Festival-wide marketing to increase audience access and community engagement. The concerts and workshops provide social benefits by fostering inclusivity, cultural exchange, and opportunities for youth and emerging musicians to learn from professional artists. Economically, the Festival draws visitors from outside the region, with approximately 2,200 local residents involved, generating an estimated \$456,000 in visitor spending that supports local restaurants, hotels, retail, and vendors. Environmentally, downtown venues and promotion of sustainable transportation reduce the Festival's carbon footprint while leveraging existing infrastructure. By combining professional performances, youth showcases, accessible events, and a month-long exhibition, the CMF enhances Collingwood's cultural profile, strengthens community cohesion, and promotes tourism, aligning with the Town's strategic priorities in arts, culture, economic vitality, and social inclusion.</p>
<p>Collingwood Toastmasters</p>	<p>The Collingwood Toastmasters Club is launching a New Member Recruitment Initiative to grow its membership from 18 active members to a target of 25–30 within the next 12 months. The project includes targeted outreach through paid advertising, themed open houses, and Speechcraft sessions to attract new participants, providing affordable opportunities for residents to develop communication and leadership skills. The Club is requesting in-kind support in the form of a venue rental waiver at the Collingwood Public Library to host these recruitment activities.</p> <p>By securing in-kind space, the Club can focus resources on recruitment rather than operational costs, maintaining financial sustainability without increasing member fees. The initiative provides social and economic benefits by strengthening members' communication, leadership, and professional skills, which enhance workplace performance, confidence, and career advancement. Programming at the Library also aligns with its role as a hub for lifelong learning and community connection, ensuring residents have access to inclusive skill-building opportunities. Weekly attendance ranges from 15–20 participants, with an estimated yearly impact of 50–75 residents. Through this initiative, the Club aims to expand participation, strengthen community engagement, and enhance opportunities for personal and professional growth within Collingwood.</p>

<p>Common Thread Collingwood Thrift Store INC</p>	<p>Common Thread is seeking funding to provide clothing vouchers for individuals in crisis, distributed through five local organizations that support youth and adults at-risk. The e-gift cards offer a dignified shopping experience, allowing recipients to select clothing and footwear that fits without the stigma often associated with charitable donations. Since opening in October 2025, Common Thread has responded to urgent clothing needs, supplying over 40 winter coats and warm clothing to local community members and partnering organizations.</p> <p>The requested support will directly fund the purchase of e-gift cards for essential items such as winter coats, shoes, and everyday clothing, allowing organizations to meet immediate needs while preserving the Thrift Store’s mission of fundraising for My Friend’s House. Socially, the project ensures that vulnerable residents can access essential clothing with dignity, promoting inclusion and well-being. Economically, the initiative supports four living-wage positions at Common Thread, while environmentally it diverts over 40 bags of textiles weekly from local landfills through recycling and resale. If fully supported, approximately 200 residents will benefit directly from the gift cards. Overall, this project strengthens community support networks, demonstrates a circular economy in practice, and provides both immediate relief and long-term social impact for Collingwood residents.</p>
<p>Connaught Public School</p>	<p>Connaught Public School is seeking funding to enhance outdoor play spaces, promoting active living, social connection, and student well-being for approximately 200 students in a lower socio-economic area of Collingwood. The one-time project includes the installation of a durable Gaga Ball pit, topping up sand for existing playground equipment to maintain safety standards, and the purchase of additional outdoor recess equipment such as balls, skipping ropes, and cooperative games. These improvements will encourage inclusive, engaging, and developmentally appropriate play while fostering teamwork, positive social interactions, and a sense of belonging.</p> <p>Grant funds will cover the purchase, delivery, and installation of the Gaga Ball pit, sand acquisition and distribution, and new recess equipment along with storage solutions, ensuring the schoolyard is safe, organized, and accessible. Socially, the project supports physical activity, healthy development, and positive peer engagement among students. Economically, it provides free, equitable access to quality recreational resources for families who may face financial barriers. Environmentally, the project promotes safe outdoor activity in a natural schoolyard setting. By upgrading these community-used spaces, the project aligns with Collingwood’s strategic priorities around active living, inclusive spaces, and community well-being, benefiting students and neighbourhood children alike.</p>
<p>Cybergnomes Robotics Inc.</p>	<p>Cybergnomes Robotics participates annually in the internationally recognized FIRST Robotics Competition, engaging youth ages 13–18 in designing, building, and programming a 120-pound robot over a six-week build season. The team represents Collingwood at regional and international competitions, developing skills in engineering, coding, teamwork, and leadership while fostering community engagement through workshops and public demonstrations.</p> <p>This grant will support the team’s capital and equipment needs, including robotics parts, tools, electronics, and safety gear; cover competition-related costs for travel and participation in events in Vancouver, North Bay, and Welland; and provide materials for program delivery, workshops, and outreach initiatives. Funding ensures inclusive, high-quality learning experiences for local youth and allows the team to maintain a strong presence at competitions.</p> <p>The project benefits Collingwood socially and economically by offering hands-on STEM education, mentorship, and youth engagement, while strengthening the local talent pipeline and showcasing community pride at national and international events. The initiative aligns with the Town’s strategic priorities in youth development, education, and long-term economic resilience. Currently, six Collingwood residents are active team members, with broader impact through community outreach and inspiration for younger students.</p>

<p>First Presbyterian Church</p>	<p>The Love Your Neighbour Program provides critical food support to Collingwood residents in need, including weekly food hampers with fresh vegetables, meat, and staples for 30 low-income families, monthly Community Dinners serving up to 100 families, and grocery gift cards for homebound individuals. Launched in 2020, the program is supported by 70 volunteers and local businesses contributing in-kind food.</p> <p>This grant will be used to purchase groceries from local stores for the weekly hampers, monthly dinners, and grocery gift cards, with all funds reconciled through receipts. The funding directly sustains this recurring initiative, ensuring that families and individuals continue to receive nutritious food in a dignified and accessible way.</p> <p>Socially, the program reduces food insecurity, supports families in staying together and in their homes, and provides meaningful volunteer opportunities that strengthen community connections. Economically, it leverages local grocery purchases and volunteer contributions, and culturally, it promotes inclusivity by supporting seniors, single parents, low-income families, people with disabilities, and refugees.</p> <p>Approximately 360 Collingwood residents benefit from this initiative, including 120 weekly hamper recipients, 100 monthly Community Dinner participants, 35 bi-weekly grocery gift card recipients, and 70 volunteers.</p>
<p>Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre</p>	<p>The Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre (GBCSC) is seeking funding to launch a targeted awareness campaign in Collingwood, aimed at increasing knowledge of local cancer support services and ensuring individuals access help early in their cancer journey. Since opening its permanent "Home for Hope" in June 2025, membership in Collingwood has tripled, yet many residents affected by cancer remain unaware of available supports. This project will expand outreach by producing a user-focused program guide, creating videos and photographs that highlight member stories, and developing brochures for healthcare providers to encourage early referrals. A banner will also be used at community and healthcare venues to increase visibility. By sharing information and lived experiences, the campaign will help residents feel supported, reduce isolation, and connect more quickly with programs that improve coping, resilience, and overall well-being.</p> <p>Funding from this grant will be used exclusively for these project-related activities, including printing 450 program guides, producing member story videos and photos, printing 2,000 brochures, and purchasing one banner stand. These efforts will directly benefit Collingwood residents, supporting approximately 170 current members and helping to increase membership by 45% to an estimated 246 local participants. The project provides social benefits by fostering early access to support, emotional well-being, and community connection, while also delivering economic relief by linking residents to programs that offset treatment-related costs. In doing so, the campaign aligns with the Town of Collingwood's strategic priorities for healthy, inclusive, and engaged communities.</p>
<p>Georgian Bay Forever</p>	<p>The Georgian Bay Conservation Shoreline Cleanups program is seeking funding to support summer student positions that engage residents, businesses, and visitors in hands-on efforts to reduce plastic pollution along Collingwood's shorelines. These students conduct shoreline cleanups, educate the public about the impacts of plastic pollution, and promote sustainable solutions, including programs like Critical Catch. By tallying collected litter, the program also helps the Town better understand pollution trends and identify opportunities to prevent waste at the source. Continued presence in the community allows the program to build stronger connections, increase volunteer engagement, and foster environmental stewardship among both residents and tourists.</p> <p>Funding from this grant will be used specifically to subsidize the wages of two summer students during their 13–16-week employment contracts. Their work will directly improve the ecological health of Collingwood's shorelines, protect aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems from plastic pollution, and contribute to a cleaner, safer, and more enjoyable environment for residents and visitors. By supporting this initiative, the Town benefits socially, economically, and environmentally through enhanced community engagement, preservation of recreational spaces, and progress toward its green community and sustainability objectives. The project is expected to directly involve and benefit approximately 300 local residents.</p>

<p>Home Horizon Georgian Triangle Residential Services</p>	<p>Home Horizon is seeking funding to support its Youth Thrive Program, which provides critical mental health support and holistic development for homeless and vulnerable youth in the Georgian Triangle. Using the “nothing for us without us” approach, the program empowers youth to engage in therapy and workshops tailored to their needs, helping them address the underlying challenges that contribute to their at-risk situations. This funding will allow the program to expand access to counselling, educational support, and employment workshops, ensuring that youth have the resources and guidance necessary to stabilize their lives, build resilience, and work toward long-term independence.</p> <p>Grant funds will be used specifically to cover the costs of mental health services, educational supports, and program workshops for youth participating in the program. By enabling more consistent access to these services, the Youth Thrive Program supports Collingwood’s social well-being by helping young people secure safe housing, develop life skills, and reduce reliance on emergency services. The program benefits not only the youth themselves but also the wider community by fostering healthier, more engaged, and productive residents. Each year, approximately 80 youth and 40 staff and volunteers are involved in or directly benefit from the program, with many more impacted through long-term social and economic outcomes.</p>
<p>Hope Chapel</p>	<p>Hope Chapel is seeking funding to support its high school lunch program, which provides a safe and welcoming space for up to 1,600 students each week. The program offers free cookies and drinks four days a week, and a free hotdog lunch on Wednesdays, along with recreational activities such as games, foosball, and music. Students are also encouraged to gain Community Service Hours by helping serve their peers, baking cookies with adult volunteers, or sorting donations for the Community Cupboard. This program addresses both social and nutritional needs by giving students a positive environment to decompress, connect with peers, and engage with caring adults.</p> <p>Grant funds will be used specifically to cover the costs of food, including hotdogs, buns, condiments, baking ingredients, and consumables such as disposable cups, bowls, cutlery, and napkins for the 2026–27 school year. By providing reliable access to meals and a safe space, the program benefits students’ well-being and supports families experiencing financial insecurity. In addition, the program fosters social cohesion by bringing students from multiple high schools together, encourages positive behaviour, and provides volunteer opportunities for local youth. Each week, approximately 1,600 students, along with 50 staff and volunteers, directly benefit from the program, with additional indirect benefits to their families and the broader community.</p>
<p>Magic of Children in the Arts</p>	<p>Magic of Children in the Arts (MOCA) is requesting in-kind support from the Town of Collingwood to deliver its Free Saturday Arts Program for children aged 8–12 at the Collingwood Public Library. This program offers two professionally led art classes most Saturdays throughout the year, providing a safe and creative space for children to explore visual art, storytelling, and hands-on expression. Local professional artists are hired to design and deliver engaging, age-appropriate workshops that build confidence, problem-solving skills, and emotional resilience. By offering the program at no cost, MOCA ensures that children from low- and moderate-income families can participate, promoting equitable access to arts education while strengthening the Library’s role as a welcoming community hub.</p> <p>The in-kind support will be used to cover artist fees and program delivery costs, ensuring the program remains free for families. The initiative delivers social benefits by giving children equal access to high-quality arts education, fostering emotional growth, communication skills, and a sense of belonging. Economically, the program supports local artists and keeps cultural dollars circulating within Collingwood, while also increasing the use of the Library as a community space. Strategically, the program aligns with the Town’s priorities of youth engagement, inclusion, and community wellbeing, while enhancing cultural vibrancy. Approximately 400 children are expected to participate in the program each year, with the broader community benefiting through strengthened social connections, creativity, and access to arts education.</p>

<p>Mobile Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>The Mobile Soup Kitchen (MSK) provides critical support to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity in Collingwood and surrounding areas. Since its launch in December 2022, MSK has delivered hot meals through its mobile soup truck, provided weekly food hampers to families with limited resources, distributed essential supplies such as clothing, hygiene products, and harm reduction kits, and introduced a weekly hot breakfast program. Meals are prepared and delivered by trained volunteers, ensuring that those most in need receive nutritious food and essential items with dignity. The program also provides safe, welcoming spaces for social connection, helping to address both physical and mental well-being. Support from the Town of Collingwood would allow MSK to continue and expand these programs, reaching more residents and responding to the growing demand for food security services.</p> <p>This project provides substantial social and economic benefits to the community. By delivering meals, hampers, and essential supplies, MSK directly supports vulnerable residents, helping them allocate limited resources toward other basic needs and improving overall health outcomes. The program also reduces pressure on local emergency and healthcare services by addressing food insecurity proactively. Additionally, the initiative engages volunteers from the community, fostering civic engagement, social cohesion, and a sense of shared responsibility. Through its ongoing programs, MSK aligns with the Town's strategic priorities of community well-being, inclusivity, and support for those facing financial hardship. Over 150 residents benefit directly from the programs, with approximately 70 volunteers contributing to their delivery.</p>
<p>My Friend's House</p>	<p>My Friend's House provides critical support to women and children experiencing abuse through its 24/7 Crisis Line, ensuring immediate access to safety planning, emotional support, and referrals. With limited shelter capacity in the region, the crisis line often serves as the first—and sometimes only—point of contact for survivors. Staffed by trained intake workers, the line offers de-escalation, connection to housing, legal, mental health, and child/youth supports, and follow-up outreach for up to a year. Serving Southern Georgian Bay, including remote communities, the program helps women navigate complex challenges such as trauma, poverty, and housing insecurity, providing them with a consistent and accessible support network. Funding from the Town of Collingwood will be used to maintain and expand trained staff coverage, provide ongoing professional training, and cover operational costs directly related to the Crisis Line, including secure phone systems and follow-up support services.</p> <p>The crisis line provides significant social and economic benefits to the Town of Collingwood. By intervening during critical moments, the program helps prevent further harm, empowers survivors with information about their rights and resources, and connects them to services that foster long-term stability. These supports reduce isolation, improve emotional well-being, and enable women and children to make informed decisions about their safety and independence. Through its ongoing operation, the program strengthens community resilience, addresses the impacts of gender-based violence, and contributes to a safer, healthier, and more inclusive Collingwood. Currently, the service reaches over 3,800 women and children from the Town, ensuring broad and meaningful impact.</p>
<p>Optimist Club</p>	<p>The Mother of All Yard Sales is an annual community event in Collingwood that collects donated goods from April 24 to May 1 and culminates in a large-scale sale on May 2. We are applying for support to offset the costs of renting the Collingwood Curling Club, tables, garbage pails, fencing, and the assistance of Parks and Recreation staff in preparing for the event. The sale raises funds for local youth programs while providing affordable items to residents and diverting useful goods from the landfill, with unsold items donated to other local charities. The event also relies on extensive volunteer support, giving residents an opportunity to actively participate in a community-driven initiative that promotes recycling, sharing, and sustainability.</p> <p>This project provides broad social, economic, and environmental benefits to the Town of Collingwood. Socially, over 100 volunteers help organize and run the event, fostering community engagement and collaboration, while more than 1,000 attendees connect and support the cause. Economically, the proceeds directly fund youth programs, and affordable sale items help families meet daily needs. Environmentally, the program reduces waste by recycling metals and electronics, separating cardboard, and ensuring items are reused rather than sent to landfill. By combining fundraising, community involvement, and sustainability, the Mother of All Yard Sales strengthens Collingwood's social fabric and promotes responsible resource use.</p>

<p>South Georgian Bay Music Foundation</p>	<p>Jazz and Blues at The Station is an annual summer concert series held on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 pm, showcasing a diverse selection of local and regional bands. The shows are free and accessible, attracting audiences of 500 to 750 music fans per performance. Held mid-week, the concerts complement the Downtown BIA's "Local Live Lunch" series, creating a vibrant downtown atmosphere. Attendees bring blankets or lawn chairs, enjoy dinner or ice cream, and experience a relaxed, community-oriented environment. The series offers an opportunity for people of all ages to come together, celebrate music, and engage with Collingwood's thriving arts scene.</p> <p>This project provides social, economic, and cultural benefits to the Town of Collingwood. Socially, the free concerts foster community connection and accessibility to high-quality cultural experiences. Economically, the events draw residents and visitors downtown, supporting local businesses and enhancing Collingwood's reputation as a vibrant cultural hub. From a community perspective, the series aligns with the Town's goals to enhance quality of life, promote healthy living, and provide inclusive recreational opportunities. By offering professional performances in a welcoming public space, Jazz and Blues at The Station strengthens Collingwood's cultural identity and enriches the summer experience for thousands of residents and visitors.</p>
<p>The Beinn Gorm Highlanders Pipe And Drums</p>	<p>The Beinn Gorm Highlanders propose to perform free monthly concerts at the Shipyard Amphitheatre on the first Tuesday of each summer month—June 2, July 7, August 4, and September 1—from 7 to 8:30 pm. These performances will entertain the community while also promoting our free teaching program, which welcomes participants of all ages to learn bagpipes and drums at no cost. By offering accessible, family-friendly performances, we aim to create a lively cultural experience that fosters community connection and showcases local talent. The concerts are open to all residents, and past events have also attracted boaters enjoying the performances from the waterfront.</p> <p>This project provides significant social and cultural benefits to the Town of Collingwood. Socially, it encourages participation in music and supports intergenerational learning by welcoming everyone to our free teaching program. Culturally, the concerts enhance the town's summer arts programming, providing high-quality, accessible entertainment for residents and visitors alike. By offering free performances in a public venue, the Beinn Gorm Highlanders contribute to Collingwood's vibrant community life, strengthen local arts engagement, and promote a sense of shared experience among attendees.</p>
<p>Theatre Collingwood Association Inc</p>	<p>The 2026 Porchside Festival is Theatre Collingwood's signature summer cultural event, presenting live performances across porches and outdoor spaces in downtown Collingwood and surrounding neighbourhoods. Over 23 days, 12 unique shows (each performed twice) will showcase Canadian performers, local visual artists, and multi-disciplinary storytelling that celebrates the region's heritage and creative talent. By bringing professional theatre and music directly into accessible community spaces, the festival removes barriers to participation, engages residents of all ages, and creates welcoming opportunities for connection, learning, and celebration. Grant support will be used exclusively for project-specific expenses, including professional artist fees, technical production costs, site setup such as portable toilets when required, and event-specific marketing to ensure broad community participation.</p> <p>The Porchside Festival provides significant social and economic benefits to Collingwood. Socially, it fosters community pride, belonging, and shared cultural experiences while reducing isolation by making high-quality arts accessible close to home. Economically, the festival stimulates local businesses as audience members shop, dine, and stay in the area, while supporting Canadian artists and technicians and contributing to the local creative economy. This initiative aligns with the Town's strategic objectives of enhancing community wellbeing, animating public spaces, supporting cultural tourism, and promoting Collingwood as a vibrant, inclusive, and creative community. Approximately 3,000 residents and visitors, 75 volunteers, and 5 staff will benefit directly, with broader economic and cultural benefits extending to local businesses and artists.</p>