

News Release



Gravenhurst Against Poverty and Hydro One share vision for new community hub and Young Adult Centre

Gravenhurst, ON - August 12, 2021 - Today, in partnership with Hydro One, community-based organization Gravenhurst Against Poverty shared its vision to revitalize Gravenhurst's downtown ING building into an 8,000 square foot community hub. This new, multi-purpose community hub will improve community safety, both physical and emotional and will house a community kitchen, ten affordable housing units, two emergency youth shelters and a dedicated new Young Adult Centre. The plan was shared at an outdoor event attended by town officials in Gravenhurst and will be brought to life through Hydro One's Energizing Life initiative, a program dedicated to supporting 35 organizations, municipalities and Indigenous communities that are providing critical services that Ontarians depend on.

"The COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions have made it difficult for our organization to connect with young adults, especially those facing mental health issues," said Bonnie Dart, Chair and Volunteer, Gravenhurst Against Poverty. "With the support of Hydro One, we will be much closer to establishing the Young Adult Centre and to providing a safe and accessible space for youth in Gravenhurst."

"We feel a deep responsibility to support organizations and municipalities that are working tirelessly to keep their communities safe," said Jay Armitage, Vice President of Marketing and Communications, Hydro One. "Gravenhurst Against Poverty will be energizing life in its community for years to come through the safe community spaces and inclusive programs it provides and we're honoured to play a part in bringing its vision of a new community hub to life through Hydro One's Energizing Life program."

"Now, more than ever, it is important to uplift organizations that are dedicated to supporting our youth," said Mayor Paul Kelly, who spoke at the announcement event. "Gravenhurst Against Poverty are doing crucial work to ensure young adults in our community feel safe, seen and supported. The Young Adult Centre, brought to life in partnership with Hydro One, will allow them to expand those services even further."

Since March 2020, Gravenhurst Against Poverty has seen a 400 per cent increase in demand for services, leading them to support the community with virtual programming while providing weekly meals to those in need and coordinating local transportation. This heightened need for services, combined with a noticeable rise in young people in the community asking for a place to connect with their peers led to the vision for a new community Young Adult Centre: a safe space for youth to explore their passions and learn new skills from trusted mentors.

Hydro One also announced the winners of its Energizing Life social media contest, which ran from May 27 to July 30, 2021 and encouraged Ontarians to nominate local organizations that are energizing life and addressing pressing needs in their communities. Ten winners were drawn at random during the event, with each organization receiving a donation of \$1,000 from Hydro One.

"We know that the community services that provide critical services have experienced a double hit of a drop in donations and a spike in demand for community services," said Armitage. "Through this initiative, we are humbled to shine a light on some of the organizations energizing life in our and making a positive impact."

Hydro One Energizing Life Social Media Contest Winners

Warton Salvation Army	YMCA Community Initiatives
Crohn's and Colitis Barrie	Food Allergy Canada
Water First	Project Hope London
Orillia Gift of Life	Bruce Grey Seniors' Centre Without Walls
Hope Awaits – North Bay	Project Canoe

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