



Media Release

The Guelph Community Foundation engages community to kick off Canada's 150th at Guelph Storm Game January 3, 2017

December 7, 2016

In just under 3 weeks, as the ball drops on New Year's Eve and we welcome a new year – it will also mark the beginning of Canada's sesquicentennial year. The Guelph Community Foundation (GCF) has partnered with The Guelph Storm hockey organization to officially kick off Canada's 150th in Guelph at their January 3rd game. The "goal" is to engage the community to join them at The Sleeman Centre that night, and draw upon community partnerships to organize an official Canada's 150th opening ceremony as well as activities throughout the game.

The Opening ceremony will include *The Guelph Legion Colour Party* and a National Anthem performance by *The Suzuki String School*. The Guelph Community Foundation has invited 40 kids and caregivers from Guelph neighbourhoods to attend the game for free, including free bus passes, many of whom have never attended a game and who otherwise could not afford to go. This was done by engaging the communities supported by *Shelldale Better Beginnings*, *Better Futures* and *The Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition*. One of these children will be selected to drop the puck at the start of the game.

"When we thought about ways to kick off Canada's 150th, we thought a local hockey game was a great fit" said Chris Willard, Executive Director at The Guelph Community Foundation. "Canadians are hockey enthusiasts by nature, and the way we rally around our hockey teams is similar to The Foundation's approach to community building: encourage others who work hard to make our "team" or community better. Support those who are making a difference, and collectively – even the fans, supporters and investors – feel part of the greatness that can be achieved." By partnering with The Guelph Storm organization, The Guelph Community Foundation hopes to engage the community and kick off 2017 and all of the hard work that will begin within the charitable groups who received grants earlier this Fall as part of Canada's 150th.

Twenty-eight charitable organizations in Guelph were selected to receive over \$204,000 in grant dollars as part of The Guelph Community Foundation Community Grants program and the Community Fund for Canada's 150th, a collaboration with the Government of Canada and extraordinary leaders from coast to coast. Throughout 2017, programs and activities are being planned all across Canada, and Guelph, that will help encourage, inspire and build local communities.

"We hope the community will come out and join us at the game on January 3rd", closes Willard. "It's over the Christmas holidays so it could make a fun family outing, and a great way for people to see how the charitable community will be creating impact in the year ahead". Tickets start at \$20 and can be purchased on the Guelph Storm website at guelphstorm.com.



About The Guelph Community Foundation:

The Guelph Community Foundation (GCF) seeks to improve the quality of life and vitality in Guelph and surrounding communities by facilitating the creation of permanent resources for charitable giving. Founded in 2000, GCF offers a simple and enduring way for you to support your community and charitable organizations, ensuring your contributions will grow and continue to make a difference today, tomorrow and for the future. Our vision is to build community vitality in three ways: donor engagement, granting and leadership. Total funds under administration are \$13.3 million with over \$9 million in permanent endowed assets. Since inception, over \$3.6 million has been distributed to over 850 charitable initiatives.

The Guelph Community Foundation's office is located at 46 Cork Street East in Guelph. For more information about The Foundation, and how we reach and impact our community please visit our website at <http://www.guelphcf.ca>

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About Community Foundations of Canada & The Community Fund for Canada's 150th

Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017 is an historic moment with the power to bring people and places together as we dream big about our communities and our country. It's a chance to encourage all Canadians to contribute to their communities in a way that will foster a greater sense of belonging, support meaningful reconciliation and leave a lasting legacy now and for future generations. *The Community Fund for Canada's 150th is a collaborative effort, seeded by the Government of Canada and extraordinary leaders from coast to coast to coast, and matched and delivered locally by Canada's 191 community foundations.* <http://communityfoundations.ca/cfc150>