

*NEWS RELEASE*

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**ROTARY PROVIDES A BOOST TO LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR GUELPH YOUTH**

*The Rotary Club of Guelph Charitable Foundation is donating $288K to support The Grove Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario - Wellington Guelph’s newest youth wellness centre*

**GUELPH, ON | MAY 29, 2023** — The Grove Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario - Wellington Guelph is a “one-stop-shop” for youth aged 12-26 designed to meet a wide range of needs including mental health, substance use, primary care, education, employment, training, housing and other community and social services. In an effort to provide youth with the most impactful tools and resources possible, The Grove team collaborates with over 30 local service providers to provide integrated care.

The Grove includes six sites across Guelph and Wellington County, with a seventh site under construction on Woolwich Street. The new site, set to open in Fall 2023 has received a welcome gift of $288,000 towards its capital building fund. The donation towards the upcoming mental health and wellness centre is from The Rotary Club of Guelph Charitable Foundation, the RGC Fund. The fund is managed by the past presidents of the Rotary Club of Guelph and directs entrusted funds to support community projects. Over the past 30 years, the RGC Fund has donated more than $2 million in support of local projects which enhance quality of life.

Rotary is a founding partner of The Grove Wellington Guelph and was the catalyst for the development and construction of The Grove sites across Wellington County and Guelph. The Grove utilizes a one door model which seeks to connect each site meaning that youth who access resources at one site, can return to a different site and not have to tell their story all over again.

“The amazing support from Rotary will help The Grove build what will be the largest of our seven youth wellness sites in this region,” said Jeffrey Hoffman, Interim Executive Director of The Grove. “We are grateful for this generous gift and the ongoing support of Rotary, helping us provide essential wellness services to local youth. It was their years of focus on creating a resource for youth in our community that enabled The Grove to come to fruition. ”

The Grove began as a Rotary led project in 2018 following an inspiring presentation by Dr. Joanna Henderson who spoke about a transformational model which made youth the centre of mental health and wellness services. What began as an Integrated Youth Service Network soon became The Grove Wellington Guelph providing youth with safe spaces across the community to stop by, have a snack, charge their phones or access holistic mental health and wellness resources such as counselling, tutoring, and life skills workshops.

“It is through Rotary’s support from the beginning that The Grove came to be,” said Hoffman. “A critical success factor in bringing multiple partners together was Rotary’s initial role as a trusted, neutral, third party facilitator,” he added. “Rotary’s steady hand and commitment to the initiative ensured that it turned from a vision to reality, supporting youth in a new way.”

“We could not be prouder to see The Grove Wellington Guelph up and running, exceeding all expectations,” said Marty Fairbairn, past president of the Rotary Club of Guelph and current Chair of the RGC Fund. “Rotary will forever link the names of its members Cyndy Dearden and Paul Dredge to this endeavour with deep gratitude for their tireless efforts and vision.”

[CMHA Waterloo Wellington](https://cmhaww.ca/) is now in the process of constructing a three storey 60,000 square foot building at 737 Woolwich Street North that will become the region’s Centre for Children Mental Health and Development Services. At this new location, 8,000 square feet on the main floor, will house one of The Grove sites. The Rotary logo will be on proud display at this location.

To learn more about The Grove Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario - Wellington Guelph and their youth service programming visit: <https://www.thegrovehubs.ca/>

To learn more about The Rotary Club of Guelph visit: <https://rotaryguelph.ca/>

To learn more about the Rotary Club of Guelph Charitable Foundation visit: <https://www.rgcfund.com/>

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**ABOUT THE GROVE YOUTH WELLNESS HUBS ONTARIO - WELLINGTON GUELPH**

The Grove is a collaborative project, with the aim of providing youth ages 12-26 with the support they need to build positive, bright futures. The goal of The Grove is to build a more effective health and social service system, through integration and collaboration, to better meet the needs of youth in Wellington County & Guelph. Now an official Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario site, The Grove currently includes seven sites across Guelph and Wellington County utilizing the benefit of “one door”, while networking sites. At each site, youth will be given access to programs and services that provide guidance and support for the future. From education and career support, to counselling and peer-to-peer programs, The Grove facilities will provide help and encouragement to every youth in the community.

**The Grove Wellington Guelph includes 6 sites across Guelph and Wellington County.**

**Open Now:**

The Grove Wellington Guelph – Palmerston Site

The Grove Wellington Guelph – Main Place – Erin Site

The Grove Wellington Guelph – Fergus Site

The Grove Wellington Guelph – University of Guelph Site

The Grove Wellington Guelph - Shelldale Family Gateway Site

The Grove Wellington Guelph – YMCA of Three Rivers

**Future Site:**

The Grove Wellington Guelph - CMHA Waterloo Wellington – North Guelph Site

**Website:** [thegrovehubs.ca](https://www.thegrovehubs.ca/)

**Facebook:** [@thegrovehubs](https://www.facebook.com/thegrovehubs)

**Twitter:**[@thegrovehubs](https://twitter.com/thegrovehubs)

**Instagram:** [@thegrovehubs](https://www.instagram.com/thegrovehubs/)

**LinkedIn:** [The Grove Hubs — Youth Wellness Hubs](https://www.linkedin.com/company/thegrovehubs/)

**ABOUT YOUTH WELLNESS HUBS ONTARIO (YWHO)**

Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario (YWHO) is a network of 22 local hubs that provide integrated services co-designed with youth for youth in communities across the province. Originally funded through philanthropy and by the Ontario government in 2017, YWHO was established to address gaps in the youth mental health system by providing fully integrated “one-stop shops” for youth aged 12-25, addressing needs related to mental health, substance use, primary care, education, employment, housing, peer support, outreach, system navigation, and other community and social programming. Through a commitment to rapid and low-barrier access, early and evidence-based interventions, equitable and culturally effective services, and youth collaboration, YWHO is taking a critical step forward to improve Ontario’s youth mental health system.

To learn more about Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario, visit www.youthhubs.ca or @YWHOntario on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

**ABOUT THE ROTARY CLUB OF GUELPH AND ITS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

The Rotary Club of Guelph is one of the oldest service clubs in Guelph and one of the largest Rotary clubs in Canada. Since it was chartered in 1920, the Rotary Club of Guelph has supported and seeded many important local service projects including the founding of KidsAbility, Hospice Wellington, the Career & Education Council of Guelph Wellington, the Dialysis Clinic at Guelph General Hospital, the Evergreen Seniors Centre, the Guelph Youth Music Centre, the Guelph Lake Rotary Forest Project in partnership with the GRCA, the John McCrae Memorial Statue, and most recently Food4Kids Guelph and The Grove Wellington Guelph youth wellness hubs.

The Rotary Club of Guelph Charitable Foundation (RGC Fund) is led by past presidents of the club who jointly manage and allocate entrusted funds to support meaningful projects which enhance quality of life in our local community. The RGC Fund has donated over $2.06 million in less than 30 years to an incredible range of projects. Its administrative costs are less than 1% of total revenues raised, making it easily one of the most efficient and cost-conscious charities in Canada.

To learn more about The Rotary Club of Guelph visit: <https://rotaryguelph.ca/>

To learn more about the RGC Fund, visit: <https://www.rgcfund.com/>

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