



## **Case for Support: GC Huston Public School Playground Project**

### **Educational Enrichment through Play and Inclusion**

September 2023

#### **Introduction**

GC Huston Public School stands as a beacon of diversity and community spirit. With 45% of our 370 student population representing the Saugeen First Nation, our school serves as a living testament to the power of reconciliation and inclusive education. At GC Huston, we believe that education extends beyond the classroom, encompassing the playground as an essential space for learning, growth, and friendship.

#### **The Playground Revitalization Project**

##### **What?**

In 2024, the school board is taking steps to enhance accessibility by installing an elevator and refreshing the playground tarmac. Unfortunately, the School Board does not fund play equipment. Seizing this opportunity, we aim to bring a new playground structure to life. This project is not just about swings and slides; it's about creating an inclusive, accessible space that mirrors our commitment to reconciliation and active engagement.

##### **Why?**

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the significance of physical activity and outdoor play in nurturing positive mental well-being has never been more evident. We've learned that play is an integral part of a child's learning journey. Unfortunately, our current playground equipment, having weathered years of use, now stands as a testament to its age, no longer able to offer the safe and stimulating environment our students deserve.

Recent events have underscored the profound connection between physical activity, outdoor play, and the promotion of positive mental health. The playground serves as more than just a place for recreation; it's a platform for students to engage, learn, and develop critical social skills. It's where shared experiences lead to laughter and the formation of lifelong friendships. Regrettably, due to aging and safety concerns, our current playground has lost its luster and vitality, leaving us with the imperative to create a revitalized space.

**Who?**

The staff, students, and families that make up our school are proud of the relationship that we enjoy with the Southampton Rotary Club. For years, the Rotary Club has strengthened the community we live in with several projects, many of which feature the school. The Rotary club is particularly proud of its literacy, Grade 3 Dictionary, young science, math programs and the hosting of Rotary Winterama that raises funds for the school. We are proud to announce that the school and Southampton Rotary Club are partnering to raise funds for the purchase and installation of a new playground structure.

**Where?**

The playground will be located within the GC Huston Public School premises in Southampton, Ontario, Canada. It will serve as a focal point for students, families, and the wider community.

**When?**

The project is slated to commence in the summer of 2024, in conjunction with the school board's renovation efforts. This opportune moment will allow for seamless coordination and integration of the new playground structure.

**How?**

The Playground Revitalization Project will be executed through a collaborative effort between GC Huston Public School, Southampton Rotary Club, and other key stakeholders. The project will encompass rigorous planning, procurement of materials, and skilled labor for the installation of a modern, inclusive playground.

**How much?**

The estimated budget for the play structure in this vital renewal project is approximately \$115,000. The School Parent Council has already raised \$30,000. This cost covers the procurement and installation of the new playground structure, ensuring it meets the highest safety and accessibility standards.

**Support so far**

The GC Huston Public School and Southampton Rotary Club have already made significant strides in mobilizing resources for this project. Together, the School and School Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding on September 13th, 2023, where Rotary pledged to bridge the funding shortfall of \$85,000 to provide a key play structure that can be incorporated into the playground revitalization project. To kick off the fundraising, the club is dedicating the proceeds of the Fund A Need component of its Annual Dinner Auction being held at the Walker House on October 28th, 2023.

**Importance of Your Support**

Your contribution to the GC Huston Playground Project is not merely a donation; it's an investment in the future of our community. By fostering a vibrant, inclusive space for play, you're helping shape the experiences and memories of countless students for years to come.

**Expanding Impact**

With your generous support, we aim to not only build a playground but also establish a sustainable program that nurtures creativity, physical activity, and inclusivity for every student who steps onto the playground.

**Conclusion**

The GC Huston Playground Project is more than just a structure; it's a symbol of unity, diversity, and growth. With your support, we're not just building a playground; we're creating a legacy of inclusivity and learning for generations to come. Join us in this journey towards a brighter, more inclusive future.

For more detailed information or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please refer to our playground web page at <https://www.southamptonrotary.com/page/playground-gc-huston>  
Thank you for considering being a part of this transformative endeavor! Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of our students and the broader community.

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