



MEDIA RELEASE

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\$150,000 OTF Grant Gave ‘Whitestone Public Library and Technology Centre’ a Facelift

Dunchurch, ON – In late 2019, the Municipality of Whitestone received a \$150,000 Capital grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to expand its Whitestone-Hagerman Memorial Public Library. In a community where there are individuals with no internet service, the Library provides essential access to computers, technology training, genealogy research and job searches. Thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, residents and visitors are welcome to make use of these services.

“In rural areas libraries often provide a whole host of services outside of the typical parameters of what you might see elsewhere. For the Municipality of Whitestone, the library is an invaluable community resource. I’m pleased to see the Ontario Trillium Foundation recognize and support the unique work that is being done at the Whitestone-Hagerman Memorial Public Library,” said MPP Norman Miller.

Located 30 kilometres east of Parry Sound, Whitestone has a population of less than 1,000 that swells to more than 6,000 during the summer months. The Whitestone Public Library and Technology Centre has become an important hub for advancing personal growth, life-long learning and recreational interest of the community and was rapidly outgrowing its existing facilities. This project was needed to meet community needs for more space, accessible shelving and meeting rooms. Social isolation is a challenge in rural and remote communities and the Library offers programs services and activities for people of all ages. The Library Expansion/Renovation project provides alignment with the Municipality’s Strategic Plan – *Building the Community-Support the Public Library*.

"The expanded facility will serve our entire community more efficiently and effectively thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation and generous community donations. The completed renovations increased our space and allow for improved accessibility," said Peggi Woehl, Board Chair, Whitestone Public Library and Technology Centre.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada’s leading granting foundations. OTF awarded \$115 million to 644 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario.

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