



Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

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News Release

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For immediate release

St. Benedict CSS Receives Major Grant from Hallman Foundation



\$300,000 will fund Phase II of the Heart of the Community project

Waterloo Region, ON – St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School's Heart of the Community project -- aimed at enhancing the school's main sports field for community use -- has just received a major boost of \$300,000 from the **Lyle S. Hallman Foundation Children and Youth Capital Grants Program**. The purpose of this grant program is to increase access to facilities offering recreation and character-building programs for children and youth (0 – 16 years) from low-income families.

The successful application, facilitated by the **Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation**, is the result of a partnership between **St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School, Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services, Idea Exchange**, and **Active Cambridge**, a non-profit agency working to connect sports and fitness to people. The funds awarded will add accessible play and recreation facilities to complement the existing infrastructure of sports field, track, fitness stations, school facilities and public library to ultimately create an Integrated Healthy Active Living Centre. This will create a foundation for a wide variety of programming to support the healthy development of youth and families.

The actual design of the facility will be determined through a community consultation process planned for this fall. This consultation will engage community members from the surrounding area as well as students, teachers, parents and community partners to inform both the design of the facility and related programming opportunities.

The \$300,000 awarded from the Hallman Foundation builds on the first phase of the project which came to fruition through the **AVIVA Community Fund**. St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School was awarded one of the \$100,000 grand prizes through the AVIVA Community Fund contest -- contributing to a \$150,000 overall budget for the first phase of the project which includes enhancement of the track and sports field with an electronic scoreboard and fitness stations. This first phase is planned for completion in August, 2015.

Funding for the second phase brings the total scope of the project to \$450,000 -- moving the vision of the project forward significantly with a focus on supporting the health and wellness of youth and families in the Cambridge community. Completion of the project's second phase is targeted for August, 2016.

"We were intrigued by the concept of an 'outdoor community centre' and felt that St. Benedict's is ideally situated to test out this concept. Given the heavy community use of the space already, this group of partners has a great base to build on and make the school a hub for active lifestyle opportunities."

-- **Laura Manning, Executive Director, Lyle S. Hallman Foundation**

"We are thankful for the support of the Lyle S. Hallman Foundation and encouraged by their shared optimism for our vision. With the synergies our facility has to offer in conjunction with Idea Exchange and the collective commitment of our community partners we see tremendous potential to create a place for families of all ages to engage in a healthy active lifestyle. This will support strong, connected families and a healthy Cambridge."

-- **Dan Witt, Principal, St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School**

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The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 96,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and four adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 179-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: **@WCDSBNewsWire - #WCDSBAwesome.**

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