

## *The Multiplier Effect*



**H**amilton Community Foundation regularly supports organizations and initiatives that deal with poverty, health and the environment. But it's not every day that a project comes along that addresses all three at once, while also helping to unlock a lot more funding.

SoBi Hamilton, the popular bike sharing program, was launched with great success in 2015, but limited resources also limited the number of locations it could serve. Now, a grant from HCF's Losani Family Foundation Fund and the Environmental Endowment Fund is helping to expand SoBi's reach into neighbourhoods where more low-income residents can access the service.

Peter Topalovic, Hamilton Bike Share & Smart Commute program manager with the City of Hamilton, says HCF's support to the pilot project known as *Everyone Rides* has also been the key to garnering a matching grant of \$275,000 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

*See Biking/p.4*

### Three new loans making a big impact

Putting more assets to work locally is what Hamilton Community Investment Fund is all about. Our three latest loans illustrate local projects that make a big difference.

- **Trillium Housing Non-Profit creates housing affordability through financing and developing entry-level homes.** HCF has approved a loan that will allow Trillium Housing to develop townhouses for families with annual incomes as low as \$45,000. The Trillium Mortgage combines with conventional financing for housing affordability, and is payment-free until resale or discharge. This is Trillium Housing's second Hamilton project with HCF financing.
- **A loan to Sacajawea Non-Profit Housing Inc. is enabling the purchase of property for building 16 affordable apartments.** The project is located in an area well-served by transit, schools and services, and addresses a critical local gap for one-person and small-family Aboriginal households.
- **Neighbour-to-Neighbour is launching Canada's seventh "community food centre" – a welcoming community space offering a range of programs with healthy food at its core.** HCF's loan will help to finance renovations to the Limeridge Road West facility where the community food centre will be housed.



## Welcome Celeste!

Celeste Licorish has joined HCF as Advisor, Philanthropic Services. Many people know Celeste from her past leadership of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction Speakers Bureau as well as her involvement as a founder and volunteer with a number of neighbourhood and community initiatives.

In her new role, Celeste supports donors in achieving their philanthropic objectives. She brings great communication skills that provide a strong foundation for her focus on deepening existing relationships with donors as she learns about their interests and goals and shares impact stories and information about HCF's newest initiatives.

"My goal is to provide opportunities for people to gain fulfillment and feel great through their giving," says Celeste.

## Expanding impact

### HCF welcomes new Sons of Italy fund



In 2014, the leadership of Sons of Italy Trieste Lodge established a fund at Hamilton Community Foundation to enable members to support the work of their fraternal organization and enhance its impact in the community. As the endowment fund increases, the investment income will also grow, adding to the funds raised each year by members, and supporting the club's charitable work. The fund ensures that Hamilton's Sons of Italy Lodge will continue its impact - and see it expand - in the years ahead.

One goal of the fund is to provide scholarships to students at McMaster University who are pursuing interests in Italian culture and learning. The first scholarships have already been awarded.

"Setting up the fund at the community foundation saved the club onerous administration and guarantees longevity and continuity," says Guido Di Cesare, past-president of the Sons of Italy. Current president Lou Filice agrees, adding: "We are all volunteers, so working through Hamilton Community Foundation takes the pressure off us. We have confidence in such a trusted and well-managed organization."

Hamilton Community Foundation is pleased to be the home of the Sons of Italy endowment and to celebrate the important place the Italian community holds in Hamilton's history and future. Contributions to the fund are welcome and supporters receive a tax receipt for their donation.

## It's what you do with what you know

### MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT & CEO: TERRY COOKE

The end of summer is synonymous with going back to school and at the Foundation we're no different. As I write, a number of board, staff and leaders from Hamilton's anchor institutions have just come back from meeting with colleagues at the Cleveland Foundation and the Democracy Collaborative to hear about some of their groundbreaking community leadership.

Cleveland created the world's first community foundation. We learned about how that foundation is working together with other anchor institutions to rebuild neighbourhoods and create social enterprises. We shared the many parallels between our cities and heard about their experiences with educational reform and rapid transit.

Both Cleveland and Hamilton have experienced difficult times, and both are transforming themselves successfully. We have a lot to learn from each other.

Seeking knowledge from leaders is what we do at HCF - for example, it was a 2001 visit to Atlanta where HCF learned about the promise of strengthening neighbourhoods. But as that experience shows, learning is just the beginning. It's using and sharing knowledge that defines what we do to drive positive change.

We look forward to sharing knowledge with you as we work together for Hamilton.

## Grants at a Glance

## Hitting the right note

An HCF grant is striking a chord in support of Sinfonia Ancaster's inaugural concert season and orchestral programming.

Sinfonia Ancaster was born out of the music department program at Redeemer University and is now part of the Ancaster Society of Performing Arts. The orchestra, consisting of 35 professional and emerging musicians, performs a diverse and rich repertoire. It also serves as a mentoring program for young musicians who learn and develop their skills with guidance from professional musicians. Two priorities for the orchestra are to feature local talent as soloists and to present performances jointly with other community groups.



## Leaders-in-the-making

Positive spaces, leadership training and employment preparation are giving youth in priority neighbourhoods a leg up through the HCF-supported *Growing Youth Leaders* project.

The project is a partnership between the City of Hamilton's recreation division, Riverdale and McQuesten neighbourhood residents and community development workers. The goal is to provide local youth with the necessary experience and skills to gain employment, including recreational programming and leadership training and certification.

Research from the Social Planning & Research Council underscores the importance of this project: youth is Hamilton's fastest growing population, but many face issues associated with poverty including not completing high school and longer-term unemployment. Job training, experience and opportunities help to address these risks.

Thirty-five hours of instruction including first-aid training, employment readiness and principles of healthy child development are designed to introduce youth to jobs in recreation and to build new skills. Participants have the opportunity to volunteer in a City of Hamilton rec centre, and all program graduates are guaranteed an interview for paid recreation positions with the City.

## Lifting the load



A diagnosis of serious illness in the family can be devastating, especially to children. Wellwood Resource Centre is lightening the burden for families in these situations.

With support from an HCF grant, Wellwood is expanding its *Kids' Program*, which offers practical assistance like door-to-door transportation to its facilities where it provides meals (that the kids help to prepare) and help with homework. Parents also benefit from this kind of support, which provides relief and predictability. More than half of *Kids' Program* participants live in Hamilton's priority neighbourhoods.

Emotional and psychological well-being are crucial for young children in these scenarios. Serious illness can touch any family and this program goes a long way to ensure that children in these situations do not feel isolated or overwhelmed.

## Speaking out for an inclusive Hamilton

#HamOnt LGBTQ+ Speak Out is a new report from the Social Planning & Research Council that examines the social landscape for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and other sexual minorities in Hamilton.



It presents six key themes emerging from community consultations in 2016, and provides recommendations on issues ranging from health services, training and education, safety of LGBTQ+ persons, organizational changes proposed to create a more inclusive community, and community planning needed to create a city that is more informed and inclusive of LGBTQ+ people. The report identifies an LGBTQ+ specific community space as one of the most important needs to fill a gap identified in the consultations.

Read the full report at <http://www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca>

## Building up biking



“The community foundation was more than a partner in this initiative,” says Peter. “Not only did its contribution allow SoBi to access the full match from FCM, the Foundation team was also very supportive in bringing their knowledge to maximize community benefit. They really understood the initiative and the importance of having accessible transportation throughout the city.”

Through *Everyone Rides*, Hamilton will become a front-runner in North America in bike share systems to serve low-income neighbourhoods. The program also includes supports such as cycling safety and skills training to overcome barriers to bike use experienced in other cities.

By encouraging more people to ride bikes, SoBi creates sustainable transportation from which the only energy burned is calories.

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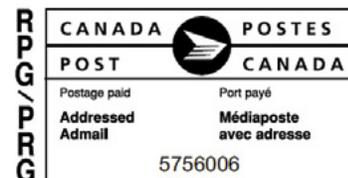
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