Maidstone & Area Historical Society Pollinator Info Centre

Phase #3 of the Maidstone Museum Renovations

April 8, 2022

Municipality of Lakeshore 419 Notre Dame St Belle River, On NOR 1A0

Att: Justin Rousseau

Dear Mr. Rousseau

MAHS is looking to complete the final phase of its renovations. Along with the museum the MAHS houses a beautiful established Heritage Native Garden Program that was started 15 years ago in partnership with ERCA and a watershed grant. The gardens recently were certified in 2020 by the Canadian Wildlife Federation as a wildlife friendly habitat. There are now over 50 different species of native trees, shrubs and plants all with a purpose of medicinal, edible or dying of fabric. Many of the plants are used in Indigenous medicines. In this native collection MAHS is very proud of some rare species flourishing such as fruit baring Paw Paw trees and a Cucumber tree.

MAHS has developed a number of educational programs based on the gardens not just from heritage aspect but also the conservation aspect of how important these species play in the live of pollinators and how by creating these types of environment we are assisting in a healthy environment especially being in a rural area where farming relays on the cross pollination to ensure crops. MAHS hold annual Butterfly, Bee and Hummingbird Days for families in the Essex County communities. These educational fun family days provide information about pollinators and information on how to start a native garden anything from a pot to a yard garden. The gardens also provide a tranquil setting for people to just come and enjoy nature.

This year MAHS is pleased to announce the completion of a metamorphous observation unit where you can watch nature at its best as butterflies go from eggs to butterflies a welcome addition to our butterfly garden.

To complete this 15 year project and to further educate our community we are asking the Municipality of Lakeshore to partner on the FCC Agri Spirit Fund grant application and act as MAHS trustee to accept and hold the funding to purchase a 10x10 mini barn from Old Hickory Buildings of Canada. The purpose of this portable mini barn is to give the MAHS a seasonal place to display the many great posters and education material that the Canadian Wildlife Federation has donated to us to further the endeavours of our Heritage Native Gardens. The mini barn can also double as much needed winter storage area for the MAHS garden benches and planters.

MAHS is looking forward to working with the Municipality of Lakeshore once again to offer new and exciting amenities for families in our vibrant community.

Sincerely yours,

Victoria Beaulieu, Pres

Maidstone and Area Historical Society

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FCC AgriSpirit Fund

Do you have a capital project that will enrich lives in your rural community? The FCC AgriSpirit Fund may provide between \$5,000 to \$25,000 to projects that qualify in a city or town of fewer than 150,000 people, or an Indigenous community.

Applications are closed and will re-open April, 2022.

Types of projects we consider:

- Refrigeration and equipment to support food waste reduction and recovery
- Construction of or upgrades to a hospital, medical centre, childcare facility, rink or sportsplex
- Firefighting and rescue equipment
- Play structures and recreation areas
- Renovations or upgrades that reduce a building's energy footprint

View all past projects

Who can apply?

- Charities registered with the Canada Revenue Agency
- Non-profit organizations who partner with a municipal body, territorial or provincial government; the municipal body must agree to receive contributed money
- Town or city under 150,000 people, rural municipality
- First Nations band or Métis settlement
- Organizations that have not received AgriSpirit funding in the past four years
- Note: FCC employees and their immediate family members cannot apply on behalf of an organization

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