



Media Release

For immediate release: Thursday, March 21, 2024

County of Brant announces first major donation for Community Centre

County of Brant, ON –The County of Brant is thrilled to announce that the first major donation has been received for the new community centre being constructed at 169 Grand River Street North in Paris. Donald and Jo-Anne Wilkin, through the Donald and Jo-Anne Wilkin Fund at the Brant Community Foundation have donated \$150,000 to the fundraising campaign.

"We are deeply grateful for the generosity of the Wilkin Family and the steadfast support of Brant Community Foundation," said County of Brant Mayor David Bailey. "This substantial contribution will play a significant role in reaching the \$400,000 fundraising campaign goal."

To honour this donation, the building will be named Wilkin Family Community Centre.

"We have deep roots in Paris, and we are thrilled to be a part of this project," said Donald and Jo-Anne Wilkin. "The Community Centre will provide important space for a variety of community activities, and we are so happy that we could help to make that happen."

With approximately 2,055 square feet of total indoor space, the Wilkin Family Community Centre will offer space for indoor and outdoor recreation, social activities, family gatherings, cultural and arts activities and a host of other opportunities to enjoy. The Wilkin Family Community Centre will be the first net zero building structure for Brant and will be home to the Paris Lawn Bowling Club and the Paris Seniors Club 99.

The cost to build the Wilkin Family Community Centre is \$1.6 million dollars, with a fundraising goal of \$400,000. Construction it is expected to be complete in the summer of 2024.

Naming opportunities are available for gifts at the \$10,000 and above level. Please contact the Capital Campaign Coordinator for more information.

Angee Turnbull, CFRE, Capital Campaign Coordinator
519.761.1129 | 519.44BRANT (2.7268) | 1.855.44BRANT
angee.turnbull@brant.ca

To learn more about Wilkin Family Community Centre and how you can get involved, visit www.brant.ca/WilkinFamilyCommunityCentre

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Media Contact:

Suzie Keczan
Director of Communications and Public Relations
County of Brant

1.855.44BRANT
suzie.keczan@brant.ca

Background on the Wilkin Family Community Centre

In 2019, the County of Brant completed a Feasibility Study regarding the replacement of the Paris Lawn Bowling Clubhouse located at 169 Grand River N. Paris. The final report recommended that the facility be replaced with new construction.

The new building will feature:

- Modern exterior design that is reminiscent of the existing building
- Outdoor covered patio and bbq space - 513 sq. ft.
- Great Room - 1,098 sq. ft.
- Kitchenette
- Accessible entrance and washrooms
- Outdoor equipment storage cabanas
- Feature display case
- New parking lot with 2 accessible spaces and 16 standard parking stalls
- Net zero building structure

The reasons for the new site include:

- Create a facility that can be used year-round, unlike the previously facility that could only be used seasonally.
- Provide rental opportunities for the entire community.
- Create a multi-purpose space that can be utilized by all residents and visitors.