

FOUNDATIONS

OPPORTUNITY CHANGES EVERYTHING

Spring 2023

What We Learn When We Take Time To Listen

As I write this, we are finalizing a new three-year strategic plan for BGC Kawarthas (Club and Foundation) and looking forward to supplementing that with an operational plan that helps us meet our inspirational goals.

In the process of developing our plan, more than 200 individuals – partners, volunteers, staff, parents and participants – contributed to the analysis of what BGC is doing well and where there are opportunities for improvement. At the same time, our own Learning & Impact study that we report on later in this newsletter, provided insights into how children and youth 8 years of age and older see the club affecting them.

We learn so much when we stop to listen.

From the mouths of our young participants, we've heard that they want us to help them with homework. Imagine that. And they feel a strong sense of welcome and belonging at the Club.

About our Foundation's role, we heard from stakeholders that they understand we are investing in the Club programs and offering subsidies so that children and youth are not prevented from participating due to economic circumstances. They understand and support our mission.

We were encouraged to work with other charitable organizations to consider how we can coordinate our fundraising events and requests for donations. We also heard that people want more, and smaller ways, to donate. They want to hear from us directly and more frequently. They want to hear more about the impact of our work.

Strategic plans are a great opportunity to pause, reflect and hit the reset button and embark with renewed energy on a path to achieve our goals. We look forward to sharing our plan with you, our donors, in the weeks and months ahead and inviting you to join us on this journey.

Amy Terrill, Executive Director Geoff Grier, Foundation President

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It is the mission of BGC Kawarthas Foundation to support the aims of BGC Kawarthas by acquiring the necessary financial resources to meet local youth service needs.

Learning & Impact Study

BGC Kawarthas recently participated in a nationwide study of BGC Clubs to gauge what they are doing right and where improvements could be made. Over a four-week period, here at BGC Kawarthas, five workers interviewed 23 different children and youth between the ages of 8 to 18 about their experiences. The Club also administered a survey for children and youth aged eight and older in March of 2022. With 91 surveys completed and an 81 per cent response rate, a statistical assessment was made.

The study found the Club has been able to overall get the children and youth more happy, accepting, active, and compassionate.

One of the best statistics was 80 per cent reported being more comfortable with themselves because of the Club, with half of those, at 42 per cent, saying that applied to them a lot. Children and youth expressed during interviews how they are encouraged to share their interests and they have learned to accept their own personality/behaviourally-based nuances.

One kid said she used to be called names, and the bullying was effective enough for her to start believing the words said, but she's found since coming to the Club those things are not true.

Additionally, the majority of children and youth interviewed throughout the qualitative process also mentioned that due to Club programming they have developed skills around the acceptance of diversity in those around them, and have made a friend who has clearly different interests.



A large majority of youth said the club has helped them accept their special personalities. One participant mentioned, "It helped me not hide certain aspects of myself while being here, like me being here I feel like myself and I don't have to have a filter or anything."

One youth who identifies as bisexual revealed she does not feel she does not feel welcome to be herself at home, and she felt really shut down and antisocial before the Youth Warehouse was recommended. Today, the one who first invited her, displayed surprise with how much happier she seems.

Another said, "The Club has helped me not hide certain aspects of myself. Being here I don't have to have a filter or anything."

Another significance of the study found a majority of children reported they are more physically active and understand physical health because of being at the Club. Interviewees answered that they have more opportunities to be physically active when at the Club and have been able to try new sports and games in Club programs. An eight year old girl said, "If I went home after school, I would just sit on the couch and watch tv but at the Club I get to run and play."

Another said the idea of walking all the way to the local rec centre to swim seemed like an impossible task due to the required effort, but the Club has helped her get into shape and now really looks forward to similar trips.

77 per cent of children aged 8-10 and 71 per cent aged 11-13 reported in the survey they are either fairly or largely more physically active due to the Club.

Youth and children also cited accelerated growth in leadership skills.

Examples of ways in which interviewees show leadership skills at the Club include: coaching other kids in new games or activities, helping fellow participants with reading, supporting younger participants, and participating in room redesign at Club.

One of our interviewees mentioned the positive outcome resulting from his leadership at the Club: "If you help out young kids, you'll feel good about yourself."



77% & **71%**
of children aged 8-10 of children aged 11-13
report being either fairly or largely more physically active at BGC Kawarthas.

We offer a full gymnasium, jungle gym, splash pad in the summer, Low Ropes course, skatepark, and in addition we have occasional trips to the Lindsay Rec Centre for swimming.

bgc
Kawarthas



There's a noticeable change at BGC Kawarthas – our new skatepark has become a destination for youth on their skateboards, scooters and BMX bikes. For the first time, these sports have a permanent home in Kawartha Lakes!

Thank you to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Federal Development Agency of Southern Ontario, and the families of Dominic and John Fox for supporting the construction of our skatepark.

As anticipated, the new park has already brought more youth to BGC's doorstep. As soon as the cement was dry last fall youth started to use the park and also venture into the building to see what the Youth Warehouse has to offer. Our Youth Services department is now regularly interacting with a record 100 youth or more, and we expect this only to grow.

With this good news comes challenges as we strive for sustainable funding for our Youth Services department. Needs of our youth vary – from homework or career support, to mental health supports and addictions, to food and housing insecurity, to mentorship. We can respond to these needs but only with the support of the community. Thank you to our longtime donor, the Otto and Marie Pick Foundation for helping us meet the nutritional needs of our youth.

If you would like to know more about how you can help us support youth in our community, please contact foundation@bgckawarthas.com or donate through the enclosed reply card or online at bgckawarthas.com/giving



Fourth Annual
KAWARTHA LAKES
YOUTH Awards

Celebrating Youth Achievements!

You Are Invited to our 4th Annual
Kawartha Lakes Youth Awards
June 15, 2023
6pm-8pm
Fairview Baptist Church
5:30 Pre-Reception for finalists and sponsors
R.S.V.P. Laurie Richards lrichards@bgckawarthas.com by May 27th

POLITO Ford LINCOLN **KAWARTHA LAKES Honda** '80s '90s & '00s **BOUNCE RADIO 91.9**

FLATO DEVELOPMENTS INC. **Wood-Mizer** **FLEMING** **PINNGUAG**

Green Energy PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION **Kawartha Lakes Jump In** **KLCFDC** **planet fitness**

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59% & 64%

of children and youth reported having a more positive influence on others because of the Club,

of children and youth reported being better at helping out when it is needed because of the Club.

bgc
Kawarthas

A majority of children and youth reported that because of the club, they are better at helping out and having a more positive influence on others, both of which are signs of leadership.

According to the interviews and surveys done by the children and youth, BGC Kawarthas accomplishes what it sets out to do, which is make a welcoming and opportune place for the young to grow and thrive.

make it monthly

Monthly giving is one of the most efficient ways to donate. You don't have to worry about remembering to give every year, and it's a great way to make a big impact through smaller donations spread out throughout the year. With your help, we can continue our work at BGC all year long.

Right now you can make a difference in our Youth Centre through a sustainable monthly contribution that will help us provide food and services to youth in our community.



You can sign up online: www.bgckawarthas.com/giving or on the enclosed reply card.

SEND A KID TO CAMP

HELP MAKE A CHILD'S SUMMER DREAMS COME TRUE!

Watch your mail for donation details!

OPPORTUNITY CHANGES EVERYTHING



August 3, 2023
Black Diamond Golf Club

Registration Opens at 9:30am
Lunch Opens at 10:30am
Live & Silent Auctions

Shot Gun start at 12pm

705-324-4493 ext: 238

Registration: \$215 (all inclusive):

- ✓ Golf, Cart & Driving Range
- ✓ Lunch & Dinner
- ✓ Course Events, Hole in Ones, Draws & Prizes
- ✓ Swag
- ✓ \$50 Tax Receipt

Westjet Raffle: \$20

Hole Sponsor: \$250

Irichards@bgckawarthas.com

Jeff Beukeboom
Charity Classic



Platinum:



Wood-Mizer



Thank You: Major Corporate & 3rd Party Donors

- ✓ Reid's Valu-Mart
- ✓ TD Bank
- ✓ Otto & Marie Pick Foundation
- ✓ Kiwanis Club of Scott's Plains
- ✓ Crayola Canada
- ✓ Kawartha Credit Union Peterborough
- ✓ Enterprise Holdings
- ✓ Dominic & John Fox Families
- ✓ In Memory of Hugh Manley
- ✓ Lindsay Social Dance Club
- ✓ Mike Wilson Haunted Backyard
- ✓ Lindsay Reunion
- ✓ Lindsay Agricultural Society
- ✓ Williamson Chrysler
- ✓ Twisted Trauma
- ✓ Fowlers Corners District Lions Club
- ✓ Omeeme Swans



Designed by Heather McCullough
Resource Development Coordinator



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