

September 20, 2023

Hello Oakville, Poplar Point & Newton Friends,

We hope you're doing well. We have some important news to share regarding the Oakville Community Centre (OCC) project, which is near and dear to all of us.

From the beginning, our aim with the OCC was to replace the space where our community has come together for decades to have fun and share valuable services. This initiative also includes a much-needed daycare that's already filling up fast, even before it opens. The waiting list has opened, and the daycare is 87.5% full based on initial interest! The OCC is set to be the heart of our gatherings, including community suppers, socials, dances, craft sales, farmer's markets, funerals, meetings, recognition events, graduations, and celebrations. It'll also be a hub for fitness activities, seasonal events, weddings, parties, and even boasts a commercial kitchen and a performance space.

In 2022, we set a budget of 3.6 million dollars, and we were thrilled to hit that goal with your generous support. We thought we were all set, ready to turn our dream into reality. However, construction costs have skyrocketed since then. In 2023, the lowest bid we received for the OCC construction for the building alone came in at a staggering 4.7 million dollars, putting total project costs over 5 million dollars.

Our dedicated team worked hard to cut costs by \$350,000 leaving us with a shortfall of 1 million dollars. We had to start construction in 2023 to avoid losing 2 million dollars in grants, so we went forward. And unfortunately, our final grant application to the province was unsuccessful. So, here we are, determined to see this project through.

We're brainstorming new ideas and approaches to close the funding gap, and we'll be back in the community very soon to ask for your support once more. Your ongoing support means the world to us, and we're committed to making the Oakville Community Centre a reality. Together, we'll build a place for our community to gather and thrive for generations to come.

We've posted photos of our progress at [www.oakville-mb.ca/community-centre/photos] or you can drive by the site for an in-person view. We're proud of what we've accomplished so far, but we're not stopping here.

If you have questions or want to get involved in our fundraising efforts, please reach out to us at oakvillecommunityclub@gmail.com or call me at 204-595-6208.

Thank you for being an essential part of our Oakville community.

Eric DeLong
President
Oakville Community Club