

20 local organizations benefit from \$1.1m grant

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It's a welcome million dollar windfall for several Hamilton area non-profit groups.

Ontario's Minister of Culture Caroline Di Cocco has announced 20 local organizations will benefit from more than \$1.1 million in grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The money was part of a more than \$30 million announcement made earlier this week.

At the top of the local list was the Bay Area Restoration Council of Hamilton and Halton Inc. The organization will receive \$284,900 over four years to help encourage personal responsibility for protecting the streams and watershed that feed into Hamilton Harbour.

"We will be less in that mode of living hand to mouth," said Jim Hudson, executive director of BARC.

"We can actually plan some of these projects on a multi-year basis and that's essential because you can't take a Band-Aid approach to cleaning up your environment."

The money will support the Connecting Our Watersheds program, an umbrella program which includes several initiatives and co-operation with other area groups.

For the Neighbour to Neighbour Centre, the cash couldn't have come at a better time.

Two months ago, the organization's only van broke down beyond repair and they've had to rent a vehicle ever since.

Now, with the one-time \$35,000 injection, the centre will buy a new van within the next week.

The Children's International Learning Centre will use its one-time \$50,000 grant to help increase its visibility in the community with programs that focus on diversity.

Other highlights of the grants include \$104,300 over two years to the Women Alive! Work Group c/o YWCA Hamilton and \$129,000 over two years to the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton.

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