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**NEW PARASPORT GAMES LEGACY
FUND GRANT TO HELP CHILDREN AND
YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN PARASPORT
PROGRAMS**

Whitby, Ontario – The Regional Municipality of Durham, in partnership with Their Opportunity, is excited to announce the new Parasport Games Legacy Fund Grant. The new grant will provide qualified families with subsidies to help alleviate registration costs for children and youth to participate in parasport programs in Durham Region.

Established by the Region of Durham's sport tourism program, Sport Durham, and administered by Their Opportunity, the Parasport Games Legacy Fund Grant aims to remove financial status as a barrier; allowing more children with disabilities to enjoy the benefits of participating in parasport programs.

The grant was created following the 2019 Durham Region Ontario Parasport Games and allows families to receive up to \$500 annually per child. In total, the Games netted \$112,000 for the legacy fund, and will be used to raise awareness and create new opportunities and participation in parasport and adaptive sport in Durham Region. Committed initiatives include:

Durham Adaptive Sport Collective (which met for the first time in October 2019) and working subcommittees to grow adaptive sport participation. An online catalogue of adaptive sport opportunities in Durham Region.

The two-year Parasport School Grow It program delivered in partnership with Abilities Centre and the Durham Adaptive Sport Collective, to introduce four parasports, which includes providing instruction and equipment, to 25 to 30 schools in Durham Region. A new annual Parasport Festival hosted in Durham Region. Sledge Hockey accessibility upgrades for a rink at Iroquois Park Sports Centre in Whitby.

For questions or to receive a copy of the Parasport Games Legacy Fund Grant application, contact program@TheirOpportunity.com.

"At the heart of Durham is a very passionate, diverse and inclusive community. Through the creation of the Parasport Games Legacy Fund Grant, the Region of Durham will ensure equal opportunities for children and youth to participate in parasport, and help to create more opportunities that celebrate the heart of our region." - John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Region of Durham

"It was important to Regional Council, the Games Organizing Committee and community partners to ensure that part of the event legacy was that more children would have the opportunity to participate in parasport. We're proud to see the fund launched and excited to see the impact it will have." - Don Terry, Games Co-Chair

"When we were approached about a partnership to help nurture and grow parasport in Durham Region, we immediately said yes. It furthers our efforts to ensure all kids get their opportunity to play." - Randy Gill, President and CEO, Their Opportunity

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Have Your Say:

Redevelopment of Kingside Park

With plans moving forward to redevelop Kingside Park at 537 Tennyson Avenue in Oshawa, community members are invited to learn more about the proposed redevelopment and provide feedback on the conceptual plans.

Kingside Park currently features sports field, tennis courts, a small playground, and parking lot. The City of Oshawa is seeking your feedback on two proposed conceptual plans for the redevelopment of Kingside Park:

Concept A proposes active recreational programming designed to provide opportunities for structured sports activities, and includes a 7 versus 7 player soccer field, pickleball courts, accessible playground, gathering space with shade pavilion, paved pathway connections with benches, and an expanded parking lot.

Concept B proposes passive recreational programming designed to provide opportunities for unstructured leisure activities, and includes more natural and passive greenspace, an accessible playground, gathering space with shade tables, a paved pathway loop with benches that connects by a bridge over the creek, and a parking lot of existing size.

Community members are invited to participate online on Connect Oshawa (www.connectoshawa.ca/KingsidePark) to view the conceptual plans and virtual presentation as well as complete an online feedback form.

Community members who prefer to complete the feedback form on paper are asked to call Service Oshawa at 905-436-3311 during regular business hours. Feedback will be received until noon on Thursday, September 9, 2021, and will be considered in the selection of the preferred conceptual plan and playground equipment for the park.

"With a new accessible playground and paved pathway system, the redevelopment of Kingside Park will see this valuable neighbourhood park updated and transformed in to a more inclusive community space for all," said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter.

"We encourage everyone to provide their feedback on the two design options." "Kingside Park will be updated and improved. The question becomes: 'What would you, the resident users, like to see in your local park?'" said Councillor Rick Kerr, Chair of the Community Services Committee.

"The City values your input and will definitely utilize key aspects in the upcoming redevelopment." "The redevelopment and modernization of Kingside Park is a key project in the southeast corner of our city," said Brian Nicholson, Ward 5 Regional and City Councillor. "By incorporating uses for all ages, it will transform Kingside Park into the heart of the surrounding community for generations to come."

"Your valuable input is requested to make certain that our park safety and amenity upgrades meet the needs of our residents," said John Gray, Ward 5 City Councillor. "With your help, Kingside Park will continue to serve the neighbourhood for all ages and for many years to come."