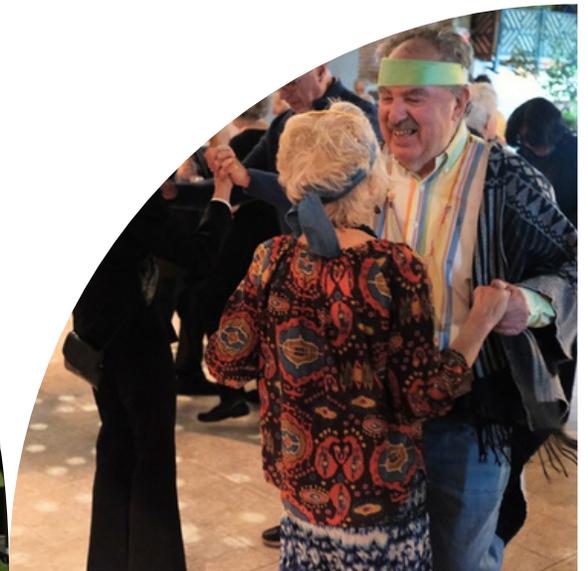




Perth and District
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**



Fiscal Year: August 1, 2024 - July 31, 2025

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



1A-77 Gore St E, Perth, ON K7H 1H8

www.pdcf.ca

INTRODUCTION

PDCF exists to grow and strengthen community where everyone belongs and thrives today and in the future. We are deeply grateful to all of the donors, fundholders, grantees, and community partners in Perth, Lanark Highlands, Tay Valley and Drummond North Elmsley who help us fulfill our goals.

We hope this report gives you a taste of the work we do. Please visit www.pdcf.ca to learn more, subscribe to our quarterly newsletter or to donate!



2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- moved to a new office in the heart of community
- distributed more PDCF Community Grants than ever before
- held the *All You Need is Love* fundraising extravaganza
- hired a summer student to build our social media profile
- helped new local organizations with strategic planning

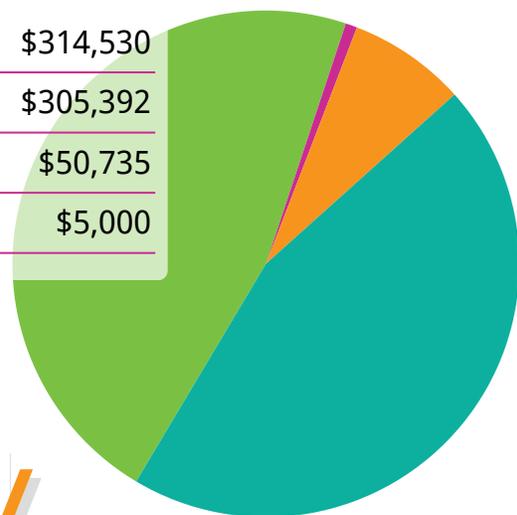
Building Community since 2002





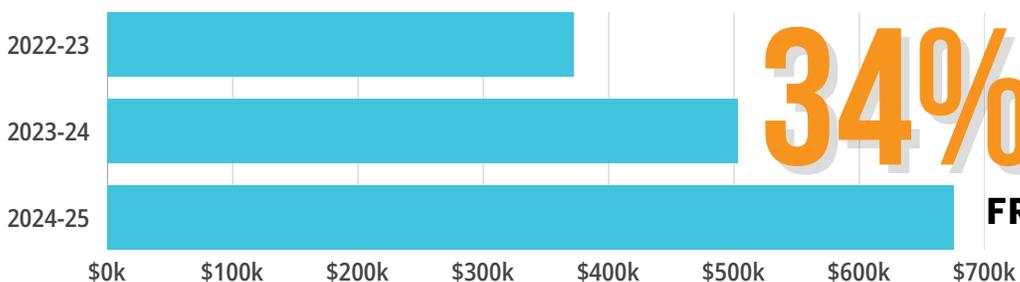
IN 2024-2025 PDCF DISTRIBUTED A TOTAL OF **\$675,657**

	PDCF Community Grants	\$314,530
	Designated Grants to Charities	\$305,392
	Scholarships, Bursaries & Awards	\$50,735
	Directors Grant	\$5,000



PDCF GRANTING BY YEAR

AN INCREASE OF



34%

FROM LAST YEAR

FROM AUG 1, 2024 TO JULY 31, 2025 ...

TOTAL FUND
BALANCES GREW BY **18.6%**
TO **\$8,708,094**



TOTAL DONORS

494

TOTAL DONATIONS

**\$1.37
MILLION**

ACTIVE FUNDS

69

AUGUST 2024

Once again, many hands came together to produce *Many Hands Harvest Beer*. Lynn McIntyre and Bill St. Arnaud donated cascade hops that they grew all summer long, and volunteers harvested them while sharing stories and building community. The Perth Brewery turned the hops into delicious beer. All of the proceeds from the beer were donated to PDCF for Community Grants



SEPTEMBER 2024

The PDCF Community Grants application process opened as it does every September but with a difference. PDCF revised its community grants policy to, for the first time ever, welcome applications for two-year grants from qualifying, local organizations.

As part of its mission to build local capacity, PDCF asked local social media and digital marketing strategist, Megan Tysick to co-facilitate "Simplifying Social Media," a seminar to help non-profit organizations utilize social media marketing. Over 20 people from local groups attended.



NOVEMBER 2024

PDCF received notice that Dr. William (Bill) Lowe (November 16, 1944 - September 15, 2022) left a bequest of \$600,000 to PDCF. He wanted his legacy gift to help community organizations of all kinds and we are incredibly appreciative of his generosity.

As part of her role to help local organizations thrive, Executive Director Victoria Gibb-Carsley, designed and facilitated a day-long strategic planning session for The Hospice Hub as an evolution to the first session she provided to them in 2023.



DECEMBER 2024

In the aftermath of the tragic death of Reese Stanzel, PDCF sponsored restorative conversations among community members at the Perth and District Union Library. Lanark County Community Justice facilitated the conversations which were coordinated by YAK Youth Services.



2025 Board of Directors

Back row: Rebecca Waterhouse, Ann Hawthorne, David Poole, Bob Mingie, Steve Scott, Philippa Syme, Terry Daly.

Front row: Shannon Baillon, Youssef Sawan, Wendy Shatner, Deb McGuire, Jordan Kennie, Victoria Gibb-Carsley (ED)



JANUARY 2025

PDCF found a new home in the heart of community when we moved to our new offices to 77 Gore Street East.

We distributed a record 29 PDCF Community Grants, with a total value of \$314,530 to local community organizations. That's more than twice the amount of money granted the previous year. This was the first time that PDCF awarded both one- and two-year grants.

FEBRUARY 2025

Despite a terrible snowstorm, PDCF supporters still came out and felt the warmth of community at our All You Need is Love fundraiser on February 15th. Everyone had a blast dancing, mingling, sampling delicious food and drink, and playing party games. It was a super-fun night of building connections... and the costumes were groovy!

The event raised over \$12,000 for our Community Granting Fund through sponsorships, ticket sales, a raffle, and games. PDCF received huge support from local businesses, who sponsored the event, provided services, and contributed gift certificates as game prizes.





MARCH 2025

Jennifer Story, Director of Education and Advisory Services for SHARE (Shareholder Association for Research and Education) presented to the Board as part of PDCF's commitment to exploring ways to ensure PDCF invests donations responsibly and with impact.

MAY 2025

On May 15, over 60 people came to celebrate PDCF's new home at 77 Gore Street East. Fundholders, current and former grantees, past and present Board representatives and members of the community dropped by to have a piece of cake and wish us well. Our new office provides a place for PDCF to hold meetings, host workshops, and lend space to local groups.

As part of PDCF's ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, new board members and grantees gathered at the PDCF office to discuss what they had learned about Indigenous history, colonization, and current issues while participating in The Path, an online course which is developed and delivered by NVision Insight Group and provided by PDCF.



PDCF Board Vice-President, Shannon Baillon and Executive Director, Victoria Gibb-Carsley, attended the Community Foundations of Canada bi-annual conference, held in Halifax. The conference title was "Illuminate," and it lived up to its name! Victoria co-presented a workshop entitled: "12 Ways to be More Inclusive and Understand Your Power as a Leader" which she designed and facilitated with Jaya Mooto from the Oakville Community Foundation



The Parkinson's Community Network (PCN) board came to the PDCF office for a tailored strategic planning session where they discussed and decided upon their vision and goals for the next few years.

PURPOSE

Perth and District Community Foundation grows and strengthens community so that everyone belongs and thrives, today and in the future.





JUNE 2025

For the first time, PDCF participated in the annual Pride Parade. We were honoured to receive Queer Connection Lanark's Rainbow Champion Award.

The founders of the Highland North Network, which formed in 2024, participated in a strategic planning session designed by PDCF to help them formulate next steps towards their vision of raising awareness about the vital importance of social health.

PDCF distributed over \$14,000 in scholarships to graduating students from Perth and District Collegiate Institute, St John's Catholic High School and TR Leger School.

JULY 2025

Through the Government of Canada Summer Jobs Program, PDCF was able to hire Elizabeth Cox as a Social Media Coordinator. Elizabeth spent the summer building our online presence and raising the profile of PDCF in the community.

PDCF had an information booth at the Stewart Park Festival. It gave staff and Board members a chance to talk about PDCF's work and how we strive to build local communities where everyone belongs and thrives.



PDCF GUIDING VALUES:

- Integrity (respect, trust, transparency)
- Community (connection, collaboration, continuity)
- Diversity (inclusion, equity, justice)

ROLES:

- Community Building
- Fund Development
- Granting for Impact

PDCF Community Grants

In February 2025, the Perth and District Community Foundation awarded a record 29 grants with a total value of \$314,530 to community organizations. That's more than twice the amount of money granted the previous year. This was the first time that PDCF awarded both one- and two-year grants.



1-YEAR GRANTS

\$6,512 GRANTED

ConnectWell Diners Club

Community Home Support Lanark County partnered with ConnectWell Community Health to run a Diner's Club twice a month providing hot meals, friendly conversation and social activities for a group of older adults and seniors.

\$8,889 GRANTED

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Run by ConnectWell, this program helps modest-income households file their tax returns. The hiring of a dedicated receptionist during tax season freed up time for CRA-trained volunteers to assist clients.

\$25,000 GRANTED

Cornerstone Landing

Youth Wellness on Wheels enhances access to health and social services for rural youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Lanark County through regular visits to local schools and outreach at tent encampments.

\$4,000 GRANTED

Dalhousie Historic Library & Museum

The museum hired a professional to restore some of its collection of books dating back to the 1700s so they can be displayed to visitors.

\$25,312 GRANTED

Guatemala Stove Project

Based in Perth, this initiative improves quality of life for impoverished Mayan families by building efficient masonry cookstoves with the help of local masons and Canadian volunteers.

This international development project was funded through the **Gordon Jackson Fund**.

\$19,150 GRANTED

FireDawgs

Perth FireDawgs runs free programs for area children and youth to participate in swimming, skating, ball hockey and recreational hockey.

\$1,800 GRANTED

Lanark Basic Income Network

LBIN continues to raise awareness and garner support from individuals and decision-makers for the principles of basic income as critical to addressing poverty and financial instability.

\$12,500 GRANTED

Lanark County Interval House

This grant funds the Perseverance Pantry initiative which provides women in transition access to groceries, toiletries and household items as well as a place to meet in discussion groups.

\$3,420 GRANTED

Lanark Highlands Public Library

Funding for the purchase of contemporary fiction and series books to appeal to the library's growing readership of young adults ages 18-35.

\$15,000 GRANTED

Linden Housing Co-op

The Linden Co-op is building 36-units of not-for-profit housing. This grant helped with planning costs associated with transforming an existing house on the property into additional transitional housing.

\$25,312 GRANTED

McDonald's Corners Agricultural Society

This grant went towards renovation efforts needed to allow the Agricultural Hall to be designed as an emergency community shelter.

\$3,000 GRANTED

Middleville & District Museum

This grant funded an exhibit of local wedding dresses dating from 1880 to 1960.

\$13,600 GRANTED

Mississippi Madawaksa Land Trust

MMLT produced a short video demonstrating the multiple mental, physical and emotional benefits that result from direct engagement with the natural world, in hopes of encouraging viewers to connect with nature.

\$11,582 GRANTED

PEP Seniors Therapeutic Centre

Ongoing physiotherapy and kinesiology services for PEP clients aim to improve or maintain function and prevent decline.



\$5,000 GRANTED

Lanark Lit Festival of Writing

A collaboration between the Perth & District Public Library and Almonte Readers & Writers, this community-focused literary arts celebration brought together local artists and visiting creators.

\$1,424 GRANTED

Perth Curling Club

Funds went to help celebrate the historic club's 150th anniversary through exhibits, signage and special events.

\$15,000 GRANTED

Perth Dog Park

Establishing the off-leash dog park has been a labour of love for the volunteers behind the Friends of the Perth Dog Park. This grant helped fund infrastructure and amenities at Darou Farm.

\$2,000 GRANTED

Queer Connection Lanark

With this grant, QCL launched *Lanark County Voices: There's a Place for Me Here*, a documentary featuring local voices from the 2SLGBTQI+ community - now available to watch on YouTube!

\$2,000 GRANTED

Rideau Search and Rescue

Funding for 10 new hand-held GPS units for use by their team of volunteers. Rideau Search and Rescue provides support to police and other agencies.

\$15,000 GRANTED

Stewart Park Festival

Grant money was used to promote the festival, pay for sound technicians and tents, and to scale up health and safety measures by ensuring highly qualified first aid responders are on site.

\$6,628 GRANTED

Watson's Corners Community Hall

A community centrepiece for over 77 years, the hall has now installed noise and light-reducing blinds and purchased new chairs to enhance programs and workshops.

\$20,000 GRANTED

YAK Youth Services

An investment in the sustainability of the organization, this grant helps cover the salary of the Executive Director so that she can lead the development of the Youth Services Hub.





2-YEAR GRANTS

\$12,833 / YEAR

Big Brothers Big Sisters Lanark County

Despite an increase in overall numbers, BBBS Lanark noticed a decline in participants from the Perth area. This two-year grant funds a multi-pronged effort to recruit volunteers from Perth to rebuild mentoring.

\$15,000 / YEAR

Climate Network Lanark

With this grant, CNL will undertake a two-year project to investigate, evaluate and develop a growth plan, and implement it. The project will focus on strategies and approaches to funding.



\$9,400 / YEAR

ConnectWell Therapeutic Riding Program

Funding will expand the Horse Buddies Program, which brings marginalized, low-income, disable folks to the farm for empowerment, fresh air and exercise.

\$25,000 / YEAR

The Hospice Hub

A new Day Hospice program will provide space and activities to improve quality of life for those with a life-limiting illness and their family/caregivers.

\$20,995 / YEAR

Lanark County Community Justice

This grant funds facilitator training and in-person and on-line courses in *Triple-P Parenting* of teens - education sessions for parents, caregivers and legal guardians who are struggling to support the youth in their lives.

\$4,000 / YEAR

Lanark Highlands Youth Centre

Funding is for learning opportunities, exposure trips, and team-building challenges to help youth in Lanark Highlands develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence to navigate their adult lives.

\$12,750 / YEAR

The Table CFC

The Table will host a Cultural Food Fair and monthly food-centered celebrations to promote awareness, connection and understanding of changing demographics in the area.



**Help your
community thrive**



**Donate to PDCF's
Community Granting Fund**

Through community grants, collaboration and capacity building, PDCF supports local organizations whose work benefits the communities of Perth, Lanark Highlands, Tay Valley and Drummond North Elmsley Townships.

We acknowledge that Lanark County is situated on the ancestral and unceded traditional land of the Omàmiwinini, also known as the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation.

With this acknowledgment comes respect for the land and the people who have been living here since time immemorial. As part of this land acknowledgment, we recognize the injustices of the past and those that continue today. We recognize our responsibility to contribute to reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of the land we call Canada.

To this end, we are learning about the impact of colonization on the Indigenous peoples of Canada, we have established an annual Indigenous Youth Award, through our partnership with Indspire, a national Indigenous charity, and we will communicate the results of our actions to the community.



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