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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**November 6, 2023**

**\$95,000 OTF Grant gives Tay Township's Oakwood Park outdoor rink new life**

**Tay, ON:** On Monday, local MPP Jill Dunlop met with the Team at Tay Township to hear more about the \$95,000 Resilient Communities Fund grant awarded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) a year ago. The grant was used to install new rink boards at Oakwood Park in Victoria Harbour. The project was completed in October and has improved the aesthetic and function of the arena area.

"This investment through the Resilient Communities Fund, has enabled the Oakwood Community Centre to enhance the experience for those who visit and participate in programs at the rink now and for years to come," said Jill Dunlop, MPP for Simcoe North.

The Oakwood Park rink is used in the winter months for skating and hockey, and the flat surface of the rink area is used in the summer for the Tay Canada Day Festival as well as other smaller community events, activities and programs. Thanks to the \$95,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the new board system has transformed this space into one that is accessible and attractive to all members of our community, encouraging active lifestyles and community engagement.

"The Township has been working to improve, renovate, and upgrade various components of the park, and in recent years we have replaced the playground equipment, upgraded the lighting at the baseball diamond and outdoor rink to LED, and added a 152 x 80 multi-use asphalt surface for sports and community events. Replacing the old arena boards was the capstone project needed to complete the updates at Oakwood Park," said Ted Walker, Mayor of Tay Township. "This grant has allowed needed renovations to be made. We also want to congratulate the Ontario Trillium Foundation on 41 years of granting and building healthy and vibrant communities across the province."

Tay Township is committed to preserving this space and ensuring that it remains accessible for many community activities over the course of the year. Please visit [tay.ca/rinks](http://tay.ca/rinks) for more information on Oakwood Park, including information about when the outdoor rink will open for the 2023-2024 season.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations celebrates 41 years of grant-making in Ontario and making a lasting impact in communities. Last year, OTF invested over \$110M into 1,022 community projects and partnerships. Visit [otf.ca](http://otf.ca) to learn more.

*Tay Township is committed to delivering responsive and cost-effective municipal services and infrastructure that provide for the long-term economic, social and environmental well-being of its residents and community.*

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