

MEDIA RELEASE



April 23, 2022

\$500,000 OTF Grant Levels the Playing Field

Sundridge, ON – On Saturday, local MPP Norman Miller and Chris Litschko, an Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) volunteer, stopped by the Sundridge Strong Joly Arena to deliver official congratulations on the \$500,000 Community Building Fund grant that the Township of Strong received in late 2021. The focus of this grant program delivered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the Government of Ontario is capital projects. Joining MPP Miller and Chris Litschko were Kelly Elik, Mayor Strong Township, Lyle Hall, Mayor Village of Sundridge and Tim Bryson, Mayor of Joly Township.

"I am very pleased to see the Ontario Trillium Foundation support the Sundridge Strong Joly (SSJ) Arena and Hall in their efforts to revitalize this important community space," said Norman Miller, MPP for Parry Sound–Muskoka. "Arenas are one of the places where residents come together to play and to create strong community bonds. I am excited to see this revitalization take place, ensuring that the SSJ Arena and Hall will continue to foster community connections for years to come."

Established in 1978, the SSJ Arena is shared by three municipalities - the Village of Sundridge, the Township of Strong and the Township of Joly. The SSJ Arena provides recreational activities for residents of the region including hockey, skating, and summer recreational activities. The facility is equipped with a large banquet hall, full kitchen, and bar available for use and has a capacity of over 250 persons.

The Township of Strong is using the \$500,000 Community Building Fund grant to install a new ice pad and boards, and will be making needed upgrades to the SSJ Arena. When completed, the project will give people in the community access to a brand-new ice surface and boards for the year-round activities at the arena for years to come.

"The impact of this Ontario Trillium Foundation grant cannot be underestimated," said Barb Belrose, Chair of the SSJ Arena Committee. "This grant has allowed needed renovations to be made. Our arena brings families and residents together."

The SSJ Arena is committed to providing a safe and accessible facility for many year-round activities to the residents in our community.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. Last year, \$112M was invested into 1,384 community projects and partnerships to build healthy and vibrant communities and strengthen the impact of Ontario's non-profit sector. In 2020/21, OTF supported Ontario's economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit <https://www.otf.ca> to learn more.

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