



Ottawa Valley FARM SHOW

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SEED GROWERS DONATE TO KEMPTVILLE, ALFRED COLLEGE RENEWAL

October 9, 2014

The Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association has approved a \$12,000 donation to help complete a business development plan of future possible uses for Kemptville College.

The funds were granted at the association's regular meeting Oct. 7. Directors felt the action was appropriate in showing their support for the ongoing campaign to save the college to be vacated by University of Guelph in 2016. The grant came in response to a request from Chesterville farmer Marty Derks, chairman of the Kemptville College Renewal Task Force. Although most of the anticipated \$78,000 cost of the business plan has been covered, Derks extra money is needed for "contingencies". Any money not spent will be returned to donors based on the level of their contributions, Derks indicated.

He explained to the meeting that the task force has until the end of October to complete part one of the plan and submit it to provincial facilitator Lyle Vanclief who will make it part of his final report on the future of the college. The grant to the task force was the second large donation to agricultural causes approved by the Seed Growers in recent weeks. They also allocated \$10,000 to assist 4-H Ontario in presenting 100th anniversary celebrations in the eastern region next September.

At the latest meeting, directors gave \$5,000 to the Alfred College Foundation for its annual cocktail and auction Oct. 23. One of the benefits of the sponsorship is eight tickets for the event, seats that will be filled by OVSGA members as a show of support. Alfred is also being abandoned by U of G. "The college is in the process of redefining its future," said Alfred's Nicole Tessier in a letter to the Seed Growers. "It's particularly important to show the community that the future of the college is in good hands."

Directors also paid \$425 for a table at the Kemptville College Foundation fundraiser Harvest Fest coming up Oct. 25. The event regularly raises \$12,000 for student scholarships and general on-campus improvements.

"It's more important than ever to stage Harvest Fest," said Ian Carley, a KCF director and chief event organizer. "It's time to show solidarity, that the agricultural community is solidly behind efforts to save the college."

In other business, directors approved \$250 to back Bruce Christie's climb of Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for the Farm & Food Care Foundation which he chairs, and they gave \$100 to the Ontario Forage Council to assist with a one-day conference in St. Albert Nov. 25. Funds donated by the association are raised through its annual Ottawa Valley Farm Show coming up March 10-12 at Ottawa's EY Centre. With 350 exhibitors, it's one of Canada's premier agricultural trade shows.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Tom Van Dusen, GM, OVFS, 613-445-3407.

tvd@ottawafarmshow.com