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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THAMES CENTRE AWARDED ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION GRANT
FOR THORNDALE COMMUNITY PARK ACCESSIBILITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

Thames Centre — Thames Centre is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a \$85,300 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the Thorndale Community Park Accessibility Enhancement Project. This project aims to address a critical community need by improving accessibility at Thorndale Community Park through the leveling and paving of the existing walking path system.

The Thorndale Community Park serves as a vibrant community hub, offering a range of amenities including baseball diamonds, soccer fields, a fieldhouse, splash pad, playground, basketball court, skate park, tennis and pickleball courts, and a community center. To ensure that this space is accessible to all residents, including those with mobility barriers and visual impairments, the current walking path system will be transformed to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

The newly paved and accessible walkways, will greatly improve the experience for individuals with mobility challenges, including those using wheelchairs, scooters, and strollers, as well as those who are visually impaired.

The project has received widespread support from the community, with backing from the County's Accessibility Coordinator, Montieth Brown Planning Consultants, and the Thorndale Optimist Club. Feedback gathered through open houses and an online survey as part of the Community Services Master Plan Update has further reinforced the need for these improvements.

Thorndale Community Park is the primary location for outdoor recreation activities and special events in the Thorndale area. The planned improvements will solidify the park's position as a central gathering place and activity hub, attracting residents and visitors alike.

This project is a testament to the commitment of Thames Centre to creating a more inclusive and accessible community. The Municipality looks forward to working on this exciting initiative and extending its benefits to all members of the community.

"It's always great to be able to share exciting news with the community, especially regarding the enhancement of the walking system at Thorndale Community Park. We look forward to the positive impact this improvement will have on our community." – *stated Thames Centre Mayor McMillan*

"We've increased our efforts in submitting grants like this to support our community and alleviate property tax burden pressures. This successful grant award further motivates us to continue delivering for our Municipality." – *stated Chief Administrative Officer of Thames Centre David Barrick*

For further information about the OTF Grant and the Municipality of Thames Centre, please contact:

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