



8360 Leeming Road East, RR#3, Mount Hope Ontario L0R 1W0
Phone: 905-679-8323 • Fax: 905-679-1705 • info@tead.on.ca • www.tead.on.ca

Media Release

April 24, 2024

OTF Grant Supports New Accessible Clubhouse at TEAD

Climate-controlled space to enhance year-round unmounted therapeutic programs

Hamilton, ON – On Wednesday, local MPP Donna Skelly met with the team at the Therapeutic Riding Centre (TEAD) to celebrate an \$82,400 Capital grant from the provincial government’s Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to upgrade facilities and improve the therapy experience for people with disabilities.

“Our government proudly supports TEAD’s important work to have uninterrupted access to beneficial therapy and recreation. Community-based initiatives such as TEAD are what make our community of Mount Hope such a great place to live and raise a family,” said Donna Skelly, MPP for Flamborough—Glanbrook.

This Capital grant funding, first awarded in November 2022, has provided the invaluable support for TEAD to build an accessible, climate-controlled clubhouse in which to run year-round unmounted programming. This new multi-use space is already being put to use with diagnosis-specific programming for individuals with autism, as well as integrated unmounted group activities. The ability to provide year-round unmounted programming is vital so that people with disabilities have uninterrupted access to beneficial therapy and recreation. Social interaction is also critical for people with disabilities and TEAD now has a dedicated, accessible and comfortable gathering space to encourage participants and their families to socialize.

“Our new clubhouse has dramatically increased the space available for unmounted programming and we can already see the potential for new year-round programming, benefiting more people with disabilities. The range of possibilities for this new accessible, climate-controlled space is endless. We are so grateful to OTF for opening a host of doors to TEAD and its community” says Melissa Horvath, TEAD’s Executive Director. Sue Schramayr, Chairperson, TEAD Board of Directors also expressed gratitude for the OTF grant. “Thank you to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for demonstrating your faith in TEAD by providing this valuable support. This generous funding will allow us to continue to fulfill our mission, strengthen our program offerings and ensures TEAD’s sustainability as we plan for the future.”

Founded in 1978, TEAD is a not-for-profit organization that empowers individuals with disabilities through the transformative power of equine-assisted therapy. The organization is dedicated to providing a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment where people can experience the physical, emotional, and psychological benefits of therapeutic riding/programming. Located on 92-acres in

picturesque Mount Hope, Ontario, TEAD offers both mounted (therapeutic riding) and unmounted (equine-facilitated) programs to its members. Individuals who participate in TEAD's programs have disabilities including, but not limited to, muscular dystrophy, autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and visual and hearing impairments. TEAD's year-round programming is supported by a dedicated and motivated team of instructors and volunteers who share a passion for providing the highest quality of care and rehabilitation for over 120 riders and their families.

"Non-profit organizations across Ontario deliver programming that makes a difference," said Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. "That's why funding that my ministry is providing through the OTF is so important. Our government wants to ensure that these programs and spaces remain the heart of communities across our province."

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Ontario government with a mission to build healthy and vibrant communities across the province. Last year, OTF invested more than \$110M into 1,044 community projects and multi-sector partnerships. Projects aim to enhance economic well-being, foster more active lifestyles, support child and youth development, provide spaces for people to come together and connect, and create a more sustainable environment. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

For more information contact:

Melissa Horvath, Executive Director, TEAD Therapeutic Riding Centre, melissa.horvath@tead.on.ca or 905-679-8323, ext. 222

Additional Links:

Website: <https://tead.on.ca/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/teadstables/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TEADStables/>