



St. John Ambulance

SAVING LIVES
at work, home and play

September 10, 2020

Town of the Blue Mountains
32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Dear Council Members:

We know we are not alone when we say that Covid-19 has had a challenging impact upon our volunteer-based organization. It is therefore with our greatest respect that we reach out to our community partners for financial assistance.

The impact of Covid-19 has been multi-layered for the **Grey Bruce Huron Branch of St. John Ambulance**. By mid-March 2020, all first aid training ceased and our doors were closed. We were grateful when students returned in early July however, to allow for social distancing our class sizes have been reduced to half, directly impacting our training revenue, which funds our volunteer activities. With the purchase of additional tables, which provide students with individual work stations, along with increased cleaning protocols and PPE (personal protective equipment), our costs per class have significantly increased. Despite this financial burden we are confident that our classrooms meet the highest standards to ensure the health and safety of our students, instructors and staff. A financial impact we could not have foreseen pre-Covid was the loss of donations for the provision of Medical First Responder coverage at local community events. Despite having no donations coming in we must ensure our equipment and ambulances are ready to respond in the event of a community emergency. This requires the completion of expensive yearly vehicle safeties and increased PPE provisions for our volunteers. One of the most difficult challenges our branch has faced is regarding our beloved Therapy Dogs, who have been unable to visit at local retirement homes and hospitals since mid-March. Our Therapy Dog volunteers know the importance of keeping our residents safe and are respectfully waiting until visitations once again open for their welcomed services.

It is for these reasons that we look to the generous support of donors like you, to continue providing our valuable community services and programming throughout Grey, Bruce and Huron. We would be most grateful for a **donation of \$500** or an attainable amount from your organization as we continue working together to make our communities safer.

Sincerely,

Tony Alberts, CStJ, Board Chair
Grey Bruce Huron Branch

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