

**Building a
Smart & Caring
Muskoka for**

Children and Youth

Wasan Island Symposium

June 1, 2016



... All for Community

Acknowledgements

Muskoka Community Foundation wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Volker Hann, Alyssa Becker and all of the Breuninger Foundation staff for their hospitality and the support given to the Building a Smart & Caring Muskoka for Children and Youth Symposium.

The Foundation also wishes to express its gratitude to Randy French of French Planning Services who donated a day of facilitation expertise to guide the proceedings and ensure a positive and productive discussion. We are also grateful to Ian Turnbull and Anne Wagner, two of the symposium participants who assisted with the facilitation of the small group sessions.

Finally, Muskoka Community Foundation thanks all those who attended the symposium for their thoughtful and passionate participation and all the organizations that work to improve the well-being of young people in Muskoka. We all contribute to building a Smart & Caring Muskoka for Children and Youth.



Thirty-two people, representing Muskoka Community Foundation, donors, Muskoka charities, and community and municipal leaders met at Wasan Island, Lake Rosseau, to have a conversation about building a Smart & Caring Muskoka for Children and Youth.



They were asked to describe what youth and children contribute to Muskoka in one or two words.

This is what we heard...



Background

The mission of Muskoka Community Foundation (MCF) is to champion the power of giving and its enduring impact, and to connect philanthropy to community needs.

The Muskoka Community Foundation works to foster community vitality and resilience by:

- ✓ Connecting donors with causes they care about and ensuring their contributions continue to grow;
- ✓ Granting the investment income from endowment funds to a wide range of Muskoka charities; and
- ✓ Building capacity and celebrating community through special events, workshops and symposiums.

In 2012, the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada issued a challenge to community foundations to come together and build a smarter, more caring nation that holds promise for all. Muskoka Community Foundation joined community foundations across Canada in responding to this challenge by creating the Smart & Caring Muskoka Fund. This is a pooled community fund which ensures that there are dedicated resources to respond to the future needs and priorities of Muskoka.

Muskoka Community Foundation received an invitation in 2014 that offered a wonderful opportunity to expand its initial response to the Governor General's challenge. The Foundation was invited by the Breuninger Foundation to host a symposium at Wasan Island on Lake Rosseau to initiate a conversation about philanthropy in Muskoka.

Wasan Island is the site of the Breuninger Foundation's international retreat. The Breuninger Foundation is a private foundation based in Germany that was established in 1968 by Heinz Breuninger and his daughter Dr. Helga Breuninger. This foundation welcomes people from around the world and offers leaders in civil society, politics, culture and business the opportunity to gather, consider important questions and to enhance their potential. The island is a beautiful and natural setting that captures its Muskoka heritage and is a wonderful place to reflect and have important discussions.

On June 1, 2016, Muskoka Community Foundation convened a second symposium on Wasan Island with the support and participation of Breuninger Foundation about building a smart and caring Muskoka for our young people. There were thirty-two participants that included representatives of Muskoka Community Foundation, donors, charities, not-for-profit organizations, government and business. In the morning there were plenary sessions that were held in a circle format to discuss the issues facing young people in Muskoka and in the afternoon there were four small group sessions to design future action. The results of this symposium are summarized in this document and are intended to provide a reference for participants in pursuing deeper action. The summary will also assist Muskoka Community Foundation in guiding donors, undertaking its own granting, and building community vitality.

Purpose of the Building a Smart & Caring Muskoka for Children and Youth Symposium

The purpose of the Building a Smart & Caring Muskoka for Children and Youth Symposium was to consider how to improve the well-being of Muskoka's children and youth by:

1. Understanding the issues and challenges that young people in Muskoka face.
2. Identifying the priority issues and challenges that require action.
3. Considering how we can work together to address the issues that face our young people.
4. Designing action to make a difference.

Young Muskokans – Why Should We Care?

Symposium participants identified the contribution of young people to Muskoka communities and why they should be a priority.

<p><i>Young people represent our future</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people are our community leaders and entrepreneurs of the future • They are natural learners and our next stewards for Muskoka • They are our future and our reason for being – they carry life forward • To ensure we have happy healthy communities • Our future and the future of Muskoka rests in their hands – they are our legacy
<p><i>Young people lead change</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people challenge the status quo, offer fresh ideas and bring change to make a better future • They bring energy, creativity, vitality and youthfulness to Muskoka – they teach us and are innovators • They are dreamers with unlimited potential • They will shape society and our communities as citizens and decision makers
<p><i>We are responsible for Muskoka’s young people</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are a link in a chain - accountable to our children and grandchildren as were our parents and grandparents • Young people motivate each of us to see them enjoy life and succeed • Young people need to know that their voices matter so that they will feel ownership in Muskoka • Children and youth need support in every way possible throughout their development to ensure they are healthy and resilient
<p><i>Young Muskokans need our care</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and youth need advocates to represent their needs, protect their rights and guide them through life • Young people are vulnerable, face more issues than any previous generation, and there is a high level of need in Muskoka • Young people in Muskoka can be easily marginalized and are experiencing abuse and violence • Early childhood intervention and reduction of adverse experiences results in improved mental and physical health, reduces the risk of addiction and increases resiliency throughout life • Resources must be directed toward improved children’s well-being through coordinated community effort • Young Muskokans need to be part of something bigger than themselves – to feel part of the community
<p><i>Young people are a good investment in Muskoka</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people determine the emotional, mental, social and physical health of Muskoka - they inject vitality, energy, hope and joy • Youth provide a needed balance to our demographics, add diversity and contribute to community resilience • It is more cost effective to positively invest in a child now than to repair the consequences later • Young people are the foundation of our community and when we invest in them, we invest in ourselves and those who will come next

The Future for Young Muskokans – What is our wish for them?

<i>Well-being</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good health – mental, physical, social and spiritual • Love and happiness and the knowledge that someone cares, understands and accepts them • Freedom to play, learn, explore and thrive • To have the benefit of a stable adult mentor • Hope and fostering of their aspirations • A feeling of optimism, belonging and confidence
<i>Safety and Security</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have stable and affordable shelter and food and a safe home • Freedom free from poverty, abuse, violence , stigma and discrimination • A healthy environment and a safe and caring community
<i>Empowerment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To find purpose, feel empowered and be challenged • To be instilled with the desire to grow, explore and learn • Confidence to speak up and take action • To feel they can have a voice for change • To see that they have the power to inspire • A chance to shape their own future • The tools necessary for them to become productive caring members of society and to guide the next generation
<i>Values</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop positive and deeply seated core values • Leadership, vision and creativity • To care for others in their community • To develop a moral compass • To be active members in a smart and caring Muskoka
<i>Connection and Positive Relationships</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive family dynamics • To understand and feel the importance of home • To have champions who challenge and encourage them • To experience connection and authentic and lasting relationships • A healthy balance of technology and human connection • Each child has a place and a feeling of belonging
<i>Community</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sense of community and connection • To be loved, cherished and valued by their community • Virtual connection with youth in other places around the world • To feel a sense of belonging in Muskoka
<i>Community Framework</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For youth to be a community priority where every child has support • That community structures and programs value children and youth • For their families to feel community support and experience community networks • Support and services that are easily accessed within their community • Unified approach to supports and services
<i>Opportunity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to engage in a healthy community and realize their potential • To have a variety of experiences including accessible and affordable recreation and play • Opportunity for a range of education and learning • Economic opportunities and support to undertake entrepreneurial endeavors • The opportunity to remain in Muskoka and discover what is possible

Current Initiatives in Muskoka – What is being done now?

There are many organizations that provide important support to young people in Muskoka. Some of the essential initiatives currently being provided by those that attended the symposium include:

District Municipality of Muskoka

- ✓ Ontario Works & OSDP
- ✓ Child Care Management
- ✓ Child Care Fee Subsidy Program
- ✓ Summer Camp Fund Program
- ✓ Experience programs in social housing
- ✓ Ontario Early Years Program
- ✓ The Nest

Muskoka Family Focus

- ✓ Licensed day care centres
- ✓ After school programs in 10 schools
- ✓ Triple P Parenting workshops
- ✓ Early Years programs
- ✓ Parent support programs
- ✓ Strengthening families programs

YWCA Muskoka

- ✓ Girlz Unplugged program delivered to over 2000 girls
- ✓ Girlz Choice for at risk girls
- ✓ Summer day camp
- ✓ Strong Girls & Young Womans' Council
- ✓ Boys Quest at Gravenhurst Secondary School

Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Muskoka

- ✓ Mentorship programs for youth 6 to 16 years old
- ✓ Community based one on one or couple mentoring for youth
- ✓ Individual and group mentoring in schools

YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka

- ✓ Employment services for youth that focus on job strategies for youth at risk
- ✓ Job Link - job connections for youth 15 to 29
- ✓ Youth training and mentoring
- ✓ Swimming
- ✓ Youth drop in program
- ✓ Leadership program

Habitat for Humanity Gateway North

- ✓ Attainable housing for families

Dads of Muskoka

- ✓ Disk Golf course created through a forest

Muskoka Parry Sound Sexual Assault Services

- ✓ Mentor program for young women who have experience sexual assault
- ✓ Peer support program at St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School

Canadian Mental Health Association, Muskoka Parry Sound – Addictions

- ✓ Counselling and prevention programs in elementary and secondary schools
- ✓ Individual case counselling for youth and families
- ✓ Case management and support
- ✓ Youth peer support program

McConnell Foundation of Muskoka

- ✓ Dental and assistive devices for youth
- ✓ Bursary

Muskoka Victim Services

- ✓ Provide support in situations of trauma
- ✓ Linkage to other services

The Door

- ✓ Youth drop in centre for teens in Huntsville
- ✓ Summer day camp
- ✓ Project Serve

Children's Foundation of Muskoka

- ✓ Provide funding for youth activities and to meet needs (beds, car seats, recreation programs etc.)
- ✓ 1 million in funding to date and approximately \$100,000 per year

Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions

- ✓ Children's mental health
- ✓ Program to find shelter for 15 to 17 year olds
- ✓ Get A Plan (GAP) Program for youth in crisis
- ✓ Therapist in all 4 secondary schools and 1 elementary school one day a week

Muskoka Conservancy

- ✓ Little Sprouts Eco Club to connect youth with nature

Town of Gravenhurst Recreation

- ✓ Baseball, Soccer and learn to swim
- ✓ Youth at Heart
- ✓ Drop in group

Challenges – What Issues Face Young People in Muskoka Today?

The participants at the Smart & Caring Muskoka Symposium identified the challenges and issues that currently face young people in Muskoka. These challenges generally fell within six categories including:

1. Systemic evaluation and improvement
2. Transportation
3. Opportunities for youth
4. Access to supports
5. Family of origin
6. Geographic scope & connection

The first four categories were selected as priorities for more in depth-discussion and the action recommended is explained in the following sections of this summary report. The final 2 categories were not discussed in detail, and could be a topic of future discussion. The issues identified for these two categories included:

Family of Origin

- Poverty and the generational cycle of poverty
- Homelessness and lack of affordable housing
- Family connection and dysfunction
- Sexual violence
- Youth justice
- Youth sexuality and access to porn
- Addiction
- School
- LGBTQ
- Ability
- Socio-economic divide in Muskoka and lack of year round employment
- Socio economic status and access to recreation
- Sense of belonging
- Mental health and well-being

Geographic Scope & Connection

- Muskoka is a large rural area with 7 municipalities and 2 First Nations
- Barriers to unity and relationship connections
- Barriers to communication and collaboration
- Inclusiveness
- Relationship with First Nation communities and lack of services for First Nation youth

Designing Action

Building a Smart & Caring Muskoka for Our Young People

Four small groups discussed the priority areas of concern for young people in Muskoka and recommended potential action to address the issues. The following includes a summary of each group discussion.

1. Systemic Evaluation and Improvement

The Issue

There is no collaborative mechanism for planning for young people in Muskoka. There is a need for data collection, gap analysis and the initiation of a planning table for children and youth in Muskoka.

The Desired Outcome and the Common Agenda

A Muskoka-based planning body is created to provide more co-ordinated and effective results for children and youth in Muskoka.

The Beneficiaries

- Children and youth ages: 0 to 24 in Muskoka
- Muskoka and its communities
- Organizations that serve children and youth in Muskoka



Action

- A meeting of all youth-serving organizations in the region should be called by the anchor groups which would include: Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions, YWCA of Muskoka, Muskoka Parry Sound Sexual Assault Services and the District of Muskoka, to explore the potential to create a regional planning body for children and youth.
- Funding and resources should be sought to complete a feasibility study for the creation of a planning body for children and youth and to undertake an evaluation of the current system and identify improvements. The Trillium Foundation may be a source of funding.
- Request that the Muskoka Community Foundation send a letter to the anchor groups, sharing the symposium report and supporting the action recommended.
- A terms of reference for inclusive collaboration about the issues facing young people in should be developed by the anchor groups with the participation of the organizations that serve children and youth in Muskoka.

Timeframe

- A meeting to discuss the development of a planning body should be held within 6 weeks (Mid July).
- A quick win would be to organize and hold a meeting of child and youth-serving groups.

Lead and Participants

- Leadership should be shared by the anchor groups.
- Wide participation of groups that serve children and youth in Muskoka should be sought.

Resources

- Initial resources will be needed help the anchor groups organize and administer meetings and to explore funding options for the feasibility study.
- Consider the option of having one of the Anchor groups assign some staff time to accomplish these tasks.

- Additional funding will be necessary to determine the potential for a planning table and to undertake an evaluation of the system.

Other Considerations

- There were about 10 individuals from various child and youth-servicing organizations across Muskoka who participated in this discussion. All participants felt that there was real merit to pursuing these recommendations.

2. Transportation

The Issue

Due to Muskoka’s population and its distribution, an economy of scale necessary to make traditional public transit feasible does not exist. Taxi services in Muskoka are very expensive, especially to travel any distance and vehicle ownership and operation is cost prohibitive for many individuals. Many youth seeking to obtain a licence are unable to fund the cost for driver’s education.

Transportation for those without personal vehicles is very difficult and complicated in Muskoka (and much of rural Ontario) and it negatively impacts:

- Children and youth trying to access programs and activities
- Access to social services and programs
- Youth and other individuals seeking work or who need to travel to a job
- Employers.



Each of these areas of transportation need may require different approaches and solutions. Safety and security would need attention especially for small children. The mode of transport may also vary so that a car may be adequate in some cases while in other situations a bus may be necessary.

The Common Agenda and Desired Outcomes

Creation of transportation solutions that are designed to address the specific issues faced in Muskoka - “Made in Muskoka solutions”. The approaches may vary depending on the transportation needed and should build on existing approaches or adapt approaches to create new models.

The Beneficiaries

- Families without personal vehicles
- Children and youth (access to activities and programs)
- Employees and employers
- Seniors
- Events and social activities
- Climate (lower carbon foot print)

Action

- Undertake a review of existing and adaptable transportation models that would work in the Muskoka context. Inventory previous studies and the existing programs (e.g. the Early Years program or the District rural busing program) and identify any beneficial connections or approaches.
- Consult with those who need transportation to determine need and ensure any solution is suitable. Consider focus groups by sector.

- Consider and investigate new approaches such as:
- A car share program in a social housing complex.
 - Solving the problem one person at a time. Provide a used vehicle for an individual who needs one and can pay it off over time. The funds would then go back into a fund to purchase another vehicle.
 - An electronic ride share board for car pooling similar to that used at universities.
 - Providing other options such as used bikes for seasonal workers.
 - Establishing hubs for service provision where appointments are coordinated (perhaps on one day) and provide a transportation service within a catchment area that would make a transportation service feasible. Build on existing hubs or networks such as the health centres in Port Carling and Dorset.
 - Government subsidies for individuals who have a car, but may need intermittent assistance for insurance or repairs to keep the vehicle in service.
- Design pilot projects.
- Identify potential funding options that match solutions to needs including:
 - Engaging upper levels of government to encourage public investment in rural transportation.
 - Looking at new funding models (P3 approaches- public, private partnerships) that might see businesses with workers who are experiencing transportation issues working with government to implement a new approach.

Timeframe

- 90 days to undertake the scan and identify potential projects.

Lead and Participants

- A small and diverse working group should be convened. The initial group should include:
 - The Network (prepared to convene an initial group)
 - District of Muskoka
 - Local business

Resources

- Meeting space and a convenor

3. Opportunities for Youth

The Issue

Young people in Muskoka require greater opportunity to learn, explore and experience in order to ensure their success. The areas of opportunity that should be enhanced include:

- Experiential learning for all young people beginning in elementary school in order to experience life beyond Muskoka.
- Programs and activities for youth in addition to those that are sports related.
- Places that offer freedom and are non-judgemental for youth to gather and engage with each other.
- Funding for youth to use recreational facilities.
- Addressing the situation when youth are not attending school.



- Mentoring and funding assistance to ensure all youth have an opportunity to pursue post-secondary education including making entrance applications and attending programs.
- Coordination of youth employment and placement services.
- Initiatives to ensure mental well-being for children and youth.
- A youth lead perspective and youth participation in developing initiatives.

The Common Agenda and Desired Outcomes

- Opportunities are provided for young people that will enhance their experience and increase their confidence and resiliency.

The Beneficiaries

- Families
- Children and youth
- Organizations providing support

Action

- Hold a youth symposium similar to the Building a Smart & Caring Muskoka for Children and Youth that would build self-esteem and show them the possibilities for a positive future. Youth participants would include at risk youth with leadership potential (but not yet recognized leaders). The Board of Education and the Children's Foundation of Muskoka could assist in identify youth to attend the session and youth should be involved in designing the session.
- Investigate what programs are currently being implemented and link to, expand or adapt the successful initiatives. This might include the leadership program at Buckwallow or extending the YMCA model to other activities and learning experiences.
- Invite at risk youth, provide a space, present a project or challenge (something youth are passionate about) and let them move forward to design and take action. Promote youth lead programs. Market these as programs for success or opportunity rather than leadership.
- Extend the experiential programs that the District currently offers to children living in social housing further into the community to reach children with similar needs. Seek the support and participation of charities to design and implement such a program.
- Consider a pilot program to provide further space for youth to gather that uses the Youth at Heart program in Gravenhurst, The Network in Gravenhurst and the program at the Bracebridge Senior Citizen centre as examples.
- Ensure early identification of need around mental health or learning disabilities and enhanced provision of services that are accessible and immediate to promote well-being, confidence and resiliency.
- Inventory best practices and create a tool kit for organizations working with children and youth and test the current service directories to ensure that they are accurate and include all of the programs available.
- Encourage the school board and school representatives to join the discussion to provide their perspective and knowledge. Collaborate to provide mentoring and funding for making applications to post-secondary educational opportunities. Encourage community support for apprenticeship placements. Determine what action can be taken to support young people not currently in secondary school in pursuing learning and education.
- Promote more active collaboration and partnerships of charities and social service agencies to address the issues faced by young people in Muskoka.

Lead and Participants

- Establish a small working group of 4 to 6 individuals to pursue the idea of a youth symposium.
- YMCA and YWCA should be included since they have the experience and expertise with youth and safety issues.
- Youth (Grade 7 or 8 or an older group) that have unrealized leadership potential.

Resources

- A working group
- A venue, logistics and volunteers to hold a youth symposium or to offer a gathering place program.

4. Access to Support

The Issue

Access to programs and services intended to support children and youth in Muskoka is limited by the following barriers:

- Lack of knowledge about the services that do exist in Muskoka.
- Limited capacity (staff and volunteers or funding) which result in waiting lists or restrictive hours of operations for programs. For example, programs that run weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and coincide with school hours.
- Children are dependent on their parents to access programs and it can be difficult to engage the parents or guardians regarding permission for their child to attend.
- Stigma or lack of confidentiality when meeting with counsellors.
- Lack of transportation to access a service or participate in a program.
- Lack of ongoing and consistent program delivery due to funding that typically lasts for two years and then may be directed to new initiatives by the funders.
- Expanding organizational regions results in catchment areas with a large geographic scope. This reduces provider knowledge of the area and responsiveness to need by increasing the time and ability to provide the service. It also affects the ability of the client to access the service.



The Common Agenda and Desired Outcomes

Collective action is taken by agencies and organizations to adapt delivery approaches and improve access to services for children, youth and families. Support is defined in terms of what benefits children and youth rather than by the needs of the organizations providing assistance.

The Beneficiaries

- Families
- Children and youth
- Organizations providing support

Action

- Design approaches that work with the whole family unit, not just the young people, and build relationships with parents and guardians.
- Encourage mentorship (formal and informal) and broaden peer support initiatives.
- Seek youth input. Have youth committees inform programs and organizations and encourage them to feel empowered.
- Increase communications between agencies to better understand what services are available and how they can be coordinated. Build awareness of the social services and programs for youth and children in Muskoka.
- Create a service hub (physical and virtual) where service providers would share space and provide access to a variety of services. In order to address confidentiality and stigma, a wider range of services

than just social services should be included. (The delivery of some services such as those addressing violence against women may not be appropriate in this situation.)

- Agencies could collaborate so that appointments could be bundled for clients. For example, if a client is going to be at the District of Muskoka for an appointment, other agencies could work with the District to arrange the ability to deliver multiple appointments with a number of agencies in one location.
- Technology should be used where possible to deliver services and address issues of lack of transportation or stigma. Social media could be used to raise awareness, provide guidance and establish initial contact with clients.
- Develop a centralized voluntary driver program similar to the Cancer Society that could be accessed through an App. (Assistance could be sought for the App from The Network.)
- Community outreach workers could provide information for clients about the service options and assist them with access. They could also stay engaged with them for follow up, continuity and relationship strengthening.
- Expand capacity to reduce wait list times by developing a centralized volunteer bureau for Muskoka and by identifying professionals that will provide pro bono services.
- Encourage more consistent and ongoing government funding for successful programs and raise awareness with donors about the needs of children and youth in Muskoka.

Themes of the Symposium

- ✓ Young people enhance our communities and will define Muskoka's future.
- ✓ The issues facing our young people and their families are complex and difficult and many challenges are linked or overlap.
- ✓ Action and programs should focus on youth and children rather than on the organizations providing assistance and we should create a culture of supporting families.
- ✓ A youth lead perspective and participation in creating initiatives is needed.
- ✓ Muskoka based approaches and solutions should be pursued and expanded.
- ✓ Collective community planning, coordination and action can deepen our impact and improve the well-being of children and youth.

Moving Action Forward

The results of the Smart & Caring Muskoka for Children and Youth Symposium have been reflected in this summary report that will be provided to each of the participants and made available publicly on the Muskoka Community Foundation website. Muskoka Community Foundation will also share the contact information with those that attended the symposium so that the connections made at the session can be expanded and strengthened.

In the future:

- Muskoka Community Foundation will use the knowledge gained at the symposium to inform our donors and our granting.
- Several groups have agreed to initiate further discussions toward implementing action.
- Muskoka Community Foundation will consider the request made by the Systemic Evaluation and Improvement discussion group that the Foundation send a letter of support for the action they have recommended.
- Muskoka Community Foundation will contact the participants at the end of this year to identify what changes or action has been taken as a result of the Smart & Caring Muskoka for Children and Youth Symposium.

Appendix 1 – Symposium Participants

YWCA Muskoka

Pamela Steel, Past Chair
Hannah Lin, Executive Director

YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka

Alex McIntosh, Philanthropy & Brand
Management, Major Gifts
Nancy West, Team Leader in Huntsville

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Muskoka

Rebecca Paul, Executive Director

Children’s Foundation of Muskoka

Morris Hudasek, Vice President

Habitat for Humanity Gateway North

David Morris, Chief Executive Officer

Muskoka Conservancy

Scott Young, Executive Director

Fowler

Moreen Miller, President

Donors

Maggie and John Cowan, Cowan Family Fund at
Muskoka Community Foundation
Ian Turnbull, Council of 50

Nipissing University

Anne Wagner, Chair of Child and Family Studies
Program

Muskoka Community Foundation

Marg French, Chair
Gord Durnan, Vice Chair
Harry Oswin, Treasurer
Jane Hunt, Board Director
Lynn DeCaro, Program Director

French Planning Services Inc.

Randy French, Facilitator

Canadian Mental Health Association, Muskoka Parry Sound

Britt Corcoran, Addiction Counselor
Keely Freeburn, Addiction Counselor

Muskoka Family Focus and Children’s Place

Carol Corrieau-Truchon, Parent Education
Supervisor

Hands the Family Help Network

Michelle Dermenjian, Lead Agency Lead and
Senior Manager Quality, Research, Evaluation
and Psychology

Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions

Mary Shirley-Thompson, Manager of Services,
Children and Youth Mental Health
Jodie Veitch, Child and Youth Worker

Muskoka Victim Services

Chris Eby, Executive Director

Muskoka Parry Sound Sexual Assault Service

Lauren Power, Executive Director

The Network

Graham Porter, CEO

The Door Youth Centre

James Hunt, Director

Top Hat House For Youth

Nancy Warren, President

The District Municipality of Muskoka

Tina Kilbourne, Manager, Children’s Programs

Town of Gravenhurst Recreation

Judy Vanderveer, Program Coordinator

Appendix 2 – Symposium Agenda

“Building a Smart and Caring Muskoka for Children and Youth”

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday June 1, 2015 Wasan Island, Lake Rosseau

- 8:00 **Boat trips to Wasan Island and Participants Sign In**
Participants will depart from the Adams Bay dock and arrive at Wasan Island to sign in and meet for a light breakfast.
- 8:45 **Welcome**
A welcome to the Smart & Caring Muskoka Symposium and a brief description of the role of Muskoka Community Foundation.
- 9:00 **Introductions and an Overview of the Day**
Participants will introduce themselves and a brief explanation of the purpose and structure of the symposium will be provided.
- 9:45 **Young Muskokans – Why should we care?**
Participants will identify why children and youth should be a priority in Muskoka and what we wish for their future.
- 9:50 **Challenges – What issues face young people in Muskoka today?**
The District Chair will begin to frame a picture of the situation for young people in Muskoka and identify the challenges they face. The participants will add their perspectives.
- 10:30 **Break**
- 10:45 **Current Initiatives in Muskoka- What are we doing now?**
Participants will briefly (the length of a tweet or an elevator pitch) identify the action that is currently being taken to address the challenges for our young people.
- 11:15 **Challenges that Need Action - What should we focus on?**
The group will identify where the gaps exist. What critical challenges and issues face Muskoka young people today that must be addressed? A participant champion for each priority issue will be selected and will lead the afternoon small group discussions to identify potential action.
- 12:00 **Lunch**
Volker Hann, the Executive Director of the Breuninger Foundation will tell the story of Wasan Island.
- 1:15 **Designing Action – How can we build a Smart and Caring Muskoka for our young people?**
In a series of small discussion groups, participants will work together to design a framework for action that will address the priority issues identified in the morning session:
- *What is the desired outcome – the common agenda?*
 - *Who are the beneficiaries?*
 - *What is the action needed? What are its components?*
 - *What timeframe is required? Are there any quick wins?*
 - *Who should be involved? Who should lead?*
 - *What resources are required?*
 - *Are there any other factors or considerations?*
- 3:00 **Break**
- 3:45 **Discussion – Results of Designing Action**
- 4:15 **Wrap Up and Adjourn – Depart from the island**