



MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING Thursday, September 4, 2025

Held in the Fellowship Hall & on Zoom at 10:00 a.m.
(coffee & tea available at 9:45 a.m.)

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Council Members Deb Gill (Chair), Roger Hyatt (Vice-Chair), Mary McFadden (Council Secretary), Brenda Heath (Christian Development), Lois Gill (Fellowship & Outreach), Lori Hyatt (Finance/Treasurer), Janice Sinker (Grand Bend Place), Rev. Nancy Knowles (Minister), Bill Weber (Ministry & Personnel), Christine Wilde (Office Administration) Debbie Procter (Property Management), Glen Miller (Trustees), Karen Etherington (Worship & Music), Peter Challen (WOW Representative),

Present: Deb Gill, Roger Hyatt, Mary McFadden, Brenda Heath, Lois Gill, Lori Hyatt, Janice Sinker, Bill Weber, Debbie Procter, Glen Miller, Peter Challen, Karen Etherington, Nancy Knowles, Christine Wilde

Quorum Present

AGENDA

1. DEVOTIONAL-PRAYER – Rev. Nancy Knowles
2. CALL TO ORDER – Deb Gill: at 10:07 a.m.
3. APPOINT AN EQUITY MONITOR – Janice Sinker
4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY (read aloud by Council)
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 - MOTION to approve the agenda as amended. Moved, seconded and carried.
 - Additional item in Business Arising – Harvest Dinner update
6. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE
 - A lovely thank you note from Michaela Rawlingson (summer student) was read by Bill. Michaela's note (in part) will be shared in Shorelines.
7. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - MOTION to approve the June 26, 2025 Council minutes as amended. Moved, seconded and carried
 - Correction in the list of Council members – Bill Weber (Ministry & Personnel & Stewardship). Stewardship was taken out.

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8. BUSINESS ARISING

- **Task Group Recommendations re Postings and Shorelines** - Respectfully – Christine Wilde, Debbie Procter, Mary McFadden, Nancy Knowles, Peter Challen.
 - The team were unable to make a final report at this time but will endeavor to do so for the next Council meeting.
- **Harvest Dinner Update** – Deb thanked Christine for the poster and tickets.
 - Folks from the community have been asking if they can help.
 - It is hoped that each Council member will take home some tickets to sell to friends and neighbours.
 - Tickets will be available at church.
 - Tables of 10 can be reserved if known ahead of time.
 - Aiming for 200 - 125 sit down and 75 take out.
 - Silent auction for 3-4 baskets of wine. Council members were asked to donate one bottle of wine.

9. **NEW BUSINESS – Deb Gill:** Opened the conversation with the question – “Can we, should we pursue these grant opportunities?” Strongly promoting that a Grant Team be developed.

- **Reviewed the immediate available grants:**
 - *The Community Vibrancy Fund Small Projects will fund up to 50% of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$10,000 in available funding. Matching funds must be cash, no matching of in-kind services. Due Wednesday, October 15, 2025.*
 - **Conversation was opened with Janice:**
 - The main concern is matching the grant funds. Janice gave several examples of audio/visual equipment that would enhance both GBP and HSUC. It is felt that the Fall concerts will be money makers and the use of sponsorship funds was mentioned. Janice is confident that these funds can be matched.
 - **MOTION that Grand Bend Place through Huron Shores United Church apply for the Community Vibrance Fund Small Projects grant, matching funds up to \$4,000 from Grand Bend Place. Moved and seconded.**
 - **Discussion:** After Janice emphasized that any enhanced audio/visual item that may be purchased using funds from this grant would be multipurpose and that both GBP and HSUC would benefit. The motion was **Carried**.
 - **Sunset Community (attachment #1) Grants are offered in the following Areas of Interest: Children & Youth, Family & Community, Health & Physical Activity, Education, Social Services & Low Income Impact, Preservation of the Environment, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging, Arts & Culture.**
 - Applications are accepted **online only** and must be submitted by **midnight on September 30, 2025**.

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- **Conversation was opened with Debbie:** Debbie felt that there was not a match for Property needs. The conversation turned to Janice and the grant would be applied under "Arts & Culture."
 - It has been realized that, in general, people do not know where GBP is. It is felt that if lighted signs were to be installed on the building walls – one facing Main St. and the other facing Queens Ave., GBP would become much more visible to the public.
 - **MOTION that Grand Bend Place apply through Huron Shores United Church to the Sunset Community grant supporting the purchase of two permanent signs. One on the Main St side of the building and the other on Queens Avenue. The wording would be "Huron Shores United Church home of Grand Bend Place - Centre of the Living Arts." Moved and seconded.**
 - **Discussion** – GBP will need to get quote and report back to Council. Reminded that this is a fully funded grant. The motion was **Carried**.
- **UCC Grant** – recommendation to fund a Communication Working Group. Application due on October 15, 2025.
 - **Conversation was opened to Nancy** – this grant is to concentrate on marketing and promotion, vision and mission. Council agreed that Nancy and Roger should investigate further and bring back what they believe to be appropriate for the next Council meeting.
- **Light Catering – Deb Gill:** Explained that there is a need for a group to be organized to handle requests for providing light lunches for gatherings such as funerals, etc. Policies would be put in place and available in a notebook. It is fortunate that Trish Challen has agreed to lead this group. A sincere thanks to Trish was given.
 - **MOTION that a group be organized lead by Trish Challen to do light catering such as funerals and celebrations of life at our discretion. Moved, seconded and carried.**
- **Permanent/flex stage – Karen Etherington:** Further the Worship & Music team report, the Ad Hoc team, after research, will bring back the costs to Council.
 - **MOTION that an ad hoc task force be formed to research, over the next 10 months, the possibilities of a portable or permanent accessible stage for the sanctuary. The task force to be comprised of chair of worship, chair of GBP, chair of property, and Dan Gill construction consultant. Recommendation to come back to Council. Moved, seconded and carried.**
- **Summer Services – Deb Gill:** More involvement is needed with decision to have or not to have outside service. Recommended change and to involve the COF – perhaps create a Survey Monkey. Worship & Music will take this on.

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10. TEAM REPORTS (attachment #2)

- **WORSHIP & MUSIC – Karen Etherington:** No further report.
- **FINANCE – Lori Hyatt:** Refer to Income & Expenses – (attachment #3)
 - **MOTION** that the Finance Team recommends that the Anniversary Appeal funds be allocated to Debt Retirement to help offset current shortfall. Moved, seconded, carried.
- **PROPERTY – Debbie Procter:**
 - **West side sidewalk repair** – after discussion of potential cost and other issues, Debbie is to come back to Council with a recommendation and motion.
 - **Parking spaces and mobility signs** – it was agreed that the signs don't need to be put in place. A reminder will be put in Shorelines to be courteous of those needing the parking spots along Queens Ave.
- **WOW – Peter Challen:** No further report.
- **GRAND BEND PLACE – Janice Sinker:** Emphasized on the hope to engage a Social Media Specialist to do consistent and professional postings on all Social Media platforms.
- **MINISTRY & PERSONNEL – Bill Weber:** No further report.
- **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Brenda Heath:** Showed the poster and sign up sheet for the "Clear the Clutter, Share the Joy" event. Emphasized the importance of signing up!
- **FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH – Lois Gill:** No further report.
 - **Food Pantry Summer Newsletter (attachment #4)**

11. EQUITY MONITOR – We behaved properly.

12. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 25, 2025 in the Fellowship Hall at 1:30 p.m.

- **Brief discussion** on dates and time for Council meetings. Agreement was made for the third Thursday at 1:30 p.m. with coffee, tea, etc. available at 1:15 p.m. There are exceptions which are indicated on the Council schedule which Deb has distributed.

13. MOTION to adjourn at 11:30 a.m.

Deb Gill,
Council Chair

Mary McFadden
Council Secretary



MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Greater Grand Bend Area Community Funds are now accepting 2025 Grant Applications



Deadline for Applications is September 30th, 2025

GRAND BEND, ON – The Sunset Community Foundation's annual **Greater Grand Bend Area Community Granting Program** is once again accepting applications from eligible organizations for programs and activities. Last fall, 25 programs received grants from this fund group, enhancing the vitality and well-being of Greater Grand Bend Area residents.

"Every grant is an investment in the people and projects that keep our community thriving," says **Pete Janzen**, Chair of the Greater Grand Bend Advisory Committee. "When local people work together, amazing things happen. Thanks to our funders' generosity, this granting program supports projects that touch every part of life-giving community organizations the resources to dream bigger, reach further, and strengthen the very fabric of our community."

The Greater Grand Bend Advisory Committee will review all submissions in mid-October, with funding decisions communicated by early November.

"We encourage applicants to connect directly with us before applying," says **Lisa Resume**, Executive Director. "This conversation can help clarify program parameters and strengthen proposals. Every year, we're inspired by the creativity and commitment shown in the applications we receive."

A Legacy of Community Support

The original Grand Bend Community Foundation was founded in 2001 with \$1.5 million in proceeds from the sale of the Grand Bend Public Utilities Commission. Today, Sunset Community Foundation's total endowment has grown to over \$3.6 million.

Greater Grand Bend Area Community Funds support a diverse range of local initiatives and are made up of the following:

- Founding PUC Community Fund
- Community Contribution Fund
- Charlotte Edwards Robinson Memorial Fund
- Environment Legacy Fund
- Grand Men Fund
- Grand Women Fund
- Hay Communications Fund
- Krech Family Fund
- M.J. Murra Endowment Fund
- Relouw Fund
- Sabourin Family Endowment Fund
- Stephanie and Ted Donaldson Family Fund
- Winters Family Fund

Funding Priorities

Grants are offered in the following Areas of Interest:

- Children & Youth
- Family & Community
- Health & Physical Activity
- Education
- Social Services & Low Income Impact
- Preservation of the Environment
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging
- Arts & Culture

Applications are accepted online only and must be submitted by **midnight on September 30, 2025**.

To learn more or submit an application, visit:

- sunsetcommunityfoundation.ca/grants
- sunsetcommunityfoundation.ca/fund-application-form
- sunsetcommunityfoundation.ca/grants-a-z

Media Contact:

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Pete Janzen | Chair, Greater Grand Bend Area Advisory Committee
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COUNCIL MEETING TEAM REPORTS

Thursday, September 4, 2025

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WORSHIP & MUSIC – Karen Etherington:

- **Actions completed:**
 - Summer services July 6 through to August 24 were held drawing upon the musicals and theatre from the Playhouse and Stratford. COF enjoyed special music supplied by guests - Lynne Douglas, Tom Taylor, Rod Culham and Fiona Short.
 - Greeters implemented passing of the offering baskets at the summer services.
 - **Actions pending:**
 - September 7 & 14- to be held in the green cathedral, weather permitting at 10 a.m.
 - September 21 & 28- welcome back into the sanctuary at 10 a.m.
 - Embellishment will decorate for the theme of "Creation".
 - October 26- anniversary Sunday with guest worship leader Mavis Curry.
 - HSUC singers to perform a Christmas Cantata "Love" economically sourced/shared from a church in Carmel, California. Details to follow.
 - Proposing a motion to ask "that an ad hoc task force be formed to research, over the next 10 months, the possibilities of a portable or permanent accessible stage for the sanctuary. The task force to be comprised of chair of worship, chair of GBP, chair of property, and Dan Gill construction consultant."
- Next Worship & Music meeting September 9 at 3:30 Zoom

FINANCE – Lori Hyatt: Refer to Income & Expenses – (attached)

- **Actions Completed:** Submission of CRA T3010 tax form
- **Actions Pending and In Progress:**
 - Recording secretary required for the team
 - Setup of additional users and devices for Square Reader use at fundraising events
 - Information provided for completion of Canada Summer Jobs Program final reporting
 - Information provided for completion of SCF final reporting (Food Pantry and Bulletin Board grants)
- **Discussion Topics:** YTD giving to Building/Debt Retirement is \$12,200 and YTD payments are \$21760
- **Motions/Recommendations to Council:** Finance Team recommends if there is to be an Anniversary Appeal that funds be allocated to Debt Retirement to help offset current shortfall
- **Continued follow up:**
 - February 4/25 – Information sent to Seebach to for Review of 2024 Financials
 - June 2025 - Awaiting review report from Seebach and Co. follow-up request sent to firm
 - August 21/25 – Request received for additional supporting documentation
 - August 25/25 – Information sent

PROPERTY – Debbie Procter:

- **Actions Completed:**

- 519Windows Inc. were contracted to clean all our church windows inside and outside for a cost of \$751.45.
- Two new LED solar lights have been ordered and will be installed on our Community Bulletin Board. The total cost to do this will be \$1717.60. This completes all the requirements for the Sunset Community Foundation Grant.

- **Actions Pending:**

- Brick repair work needs to be done on the east side of the church. This project has been put on hold until funds become available.
- The sidewalk replacement and drainage on the west side of the church requires attention. This will be done once funds become available. An estimate has been obtained to complete this project at \$6,497.50 from D. Gill Construction.
- Quotes for new proper directional signage, to replace the paper laminated signs have been put on hold for now.
- Purchasing a prefabricated shed to accommodate more storage is needed. An 11' x 7' shed is available at Jacobs Liquation Centre, in St. Marys for a cost of \$1850.00 + tax. They will deliver the three large heavy boxes for \$40. The new shed would sit beside the other two sheds at the north end of our property.

- **Security WG – Dan Gill, Chris Barry, Roger Hyatt and Debbie Procter**

- **Actions Pending:**

- The Security WG is developing a guideline to present to Council with regards to upgrading our security systems for all church email accounts. Currently all church email communications are a labyrinth of church and personal email accounts. It is felt by this group that each Council chair should have their own personal account. The separation of personal and church accounts would prevent viruses or malware from cross contamination. This would help with our You Tube login for recording our church services.
- They are also recommending that an external system be implemented to back up all church accounts which isn't being done at the present time. A final recommendation will be forthcoming from this group soon.

- **Maintenance and Repair WG – Chris Barry and Dan G.**

- **Actions Pending:** Coming up with a resolution to fix two of our outdoor watering taps that are leaking.

- **Kitchen WG – Lois Gill and Debbie Procter**

- **Actions Pending:** House cleaning of the kitchen and the servery will be completed in the fall.

- **Green Team WG – Lois Gill and Debbie Procter**

- **Actions Complete:**

- The watering of the urns from the rain barrels continues. The rain barrels did have to be refilled with church water once during the summer months due to the lack of rain.
- The church gardens have been tidied up, as a lot of our perennials have died off due to the lack of rain.

- **Actions Pending:**

- The two Maple trees in the Community Living Room are getting large and need to be pruned. The branches are growing into the hydro lines on the Main St. I have contacted All Around the Bend to trim them for us. They can only do it up to a certain height. They recommended we contact Ontario Hydro. This idea will be investigated.
- The west side walkway needs to be power washed.

- **Food Pantry Update:**

- **Actions Pending:**

- A new electronic keypad with Wi-Fi capabilities will be installed on the Food Pantry Door. This will allow the Operations Manager to open and close the door remotely. This was approved by the Food Pantry executive at their meeting at a cost of \$900. This expense will come out of the Food Pantry budget.
- A price for the donor recognition sign for the GB Community Food Pantry has been obtained from Track 21. We received a copy of the proof of the design, and it has been approved. It will be installed once Track21 has it completed.
- The cement walkway pad to the northeast leading to the Food Pantry needs to be completed. This will be done soon.
- A new buzzer and light device will be installed outside of the Food Pantry, allowing volunteers to have a warning signal that they can push, if they get into a situation where they need help.
- The Food Pantry executives are planning two fundraising events, one in the fall and one in February 2026. More details to follow.

- **Parking Update:**

- Contact was made with the owner of the plaza building across from the church about using his parking space behind his building for Sundays and GBP concerts. He is more than willing to let us use his space for parking.
- Do we need to continue using the limited mobility signs in the 5 spots to the north of the Queens Ave. walkway?
 - We have not used them all summer. No one has suggested otherwise.
 - They are cumbersome to carry and awkward to put together.
 - During the winter the parking spots get slippery, and it makes it difficult to manage them without worrying about falling.
 - During the winter months we lose two spots due to snow piled up in them.
 - There have been times when there are empty parking spaces available and no one wants to use them. Yet we have other seniors without mobility issues that could use them.
 - There have been times when the pylons have been left out overnight, so when other people arrive at the church in the morning, they do not want to use the parking spaces.
 - One of the volunteers that has been assigned this task in the past has mobility issues. I know they find it difficult to manage the pylons and the posts.

WOW – Peter Challen:

- **Actions Completed:**

- The United Church of Canada has a new Moderator, The Reverend Dr Kimberly Heath, elected in Calgary, at our General Assembly, August 2025.
- Forwarded to Steve Northey (Stewardship), "Stewardship – Sharing – Generosity" from WOW Newsletter, Aug 18, 2025.

GRAND BEND PLACE – Janice Sinker:

- **Actions Completed:**
 - Denise Pelley Words & Music concert planned for Sept. 21
 - Elton John Tribute planned for Oct. 24
 - Gordon Lightfoot concert planned for November 14
 - Big Band Christmas Show planned for December 7
 - 2026 Regular Season is all booked with 7 concerts now arranged
 - hoping that all 3 of our fall concerts for 2025 will sell out to assist with our financial projections
- **Actions Pending:**
 - 2 potential performance ideas for 2026 Words & Music series
 - considering a children's music performer for 2026 (self esteem theme)
 - 2 potential dates in 2025 & 2 in spring of 2026 for Jazz Vespers
 - Sunset Cinema presents "Defending Your Life" on September 4
 - we will be asking Sunset Cinema attendees for movie ideas
 - we are investigating Grant ideas for a stage, audio visual equipment and 2 electronic lit signs to make GBP more visible to the public, and to concert-goers
 - we are hoping to engage a Social Media Specialist to do consistent and professional postings on all Social Media platforms

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL – Bill Weber:

- **Actions Pending:** M&P is working on establishing open office hours five days a week.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Brenda Heath:

- **Actions Completed**
 - **Church Picnic:**
 - The picnic was a happy success. Attendance was great and from all accounts, everyone enjoyed the event. From the service, the music, the games, the prizes, the coffee and decor, it was a fun Canada Picnic Day. Our committee was pleased with the event.
 - We were grateful to Deb Gill for contacting Lambton Shores municipal offices for waiving our rental fees. When Lambton was informed of the need for maintenance at the Pavilion (more than once) and denied, our own Dan Gill painted the washroom doors and cleaned the bathrooms ahead of our event. It was a nice surprise from the Township but also needed to be recognized. Hence, our costs for the picnic were minimal.
 - **Single Day Camp:**
 - On August 14 our committee, along with significant help and planning from our summer student Michaela Rawlingson led a full camp day of fun and activities, crafts and snacks for 6 children.
 - Michaela was instrumental in running the camp with help from our committee and Lois Gill. Everyone's help was sincerely appreciated. The kids had a great time and things ran smoothly. When parents came to pick up their children, all were very appreciative of the event and some made generous donations.

- **Actions Pending:**

- **Fall Speaker and Pot Luck:**

- Our Fall CEC Event is booked. We are excited about having Joanne Schreuders as our speaker on October 5th following our regular morning service, pot-luck luncheon. Joanne is an experienced speaker who has several pertinent presentations she gives dealing with the need for "cleaning and sorting out our lives and households. The adage "Mess = Stress" is very true. Her talk will give all of us tools to start organizing and "cleaning out" our lives of "stuff". We hope to reach community members for this event as well.
 - There is a cost to bringing Joanne here, which is covered in our budget allotments.

FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH – Lois Gill:

- **Actions Completed:**

- We celebrated Michaela (summer student) on her last day of work on Tuesday, August 26.
 - Caring Casseroles: Held on Friday, August 29. Prepared and packaged soup, casseroles and pie.

- **Actions Pending:** Caring Casseroles: next one on Friday, September 26.

- **Membership – Mary McFadden:** Work on the pictorial directory is 99% complete. Information for the first draft will be sent out soon. Estimated timeframe for completion should be sometime in November. Team members are Mary McFadden, Rev. Nancy and Christine Wilde. I thank them for their input. Also to be thanked are Joanne Barry (nursing home folks), Lynne Desjardine (for helping with folks that needed help) and Carey Eddy who name by name proofed the roster.

TRUSTEES – Glen Miller:

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Huron Shores United Church
Income and Expense Statement
 Consolidated - January 2025 - July 2025

		Current Period	Current Budget	Annual Budget
INCOME				
FUNDS DEVELOPMENT				
Operating	4030	\$63,313.57	\$70,000.00	\$120,000.00
Cemetery	4030-001	32.30	0.00	0.00
Special Envelopes	4045	0.00	8,750.00	15,000.00
Grocery Card Program	4055	3,179.00	2,916.69	5,000.00
Fundraising Event Income	4065	14,848.60	5,833.31	10,000.00
Subtotal Funds Development		81,373.47	87,500.00	150,000.00
GRAND BEND PLACE				
GBP Ticket Sales	4110	11,374.20	18,214.00	31,224.00
GBP Donations & Sponsors	4110-001	7,000.00	3,616.69	6,200.00
GBP Other Income	4110-002	1,265.40	0.00	0.00
GBP Jazz Vespers	4110-003	1,117.50	437.50	750.00
GBP Sunset Cinema	4110-004	1,257.23	583.31	1,000.00
Subtotal Grand Bend Place		22,014.33	22,851.50	39,174.00
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED				
Community Outreach	4205	663.00	437.50	750.00
Food Bank Receipts	4210-102	770.00	700.00	1,200.00
Mission & Service	4220-103	7,239.45	7,000.00	12,000.00
Subtotal Temporarily Restricted		8,672.45	8,137.50	13,950.00
INTEREST INCOME				
Banking Interest	4510	1,018.09	0.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME				
Bldg & Debt Retirement	4615	12,199.86	19,541.69	33,500.00
Usage Fees & Misc.	4621	1,766.25	2,625.00	4,500.00
Subtotal Miscellaneous Income		13,966.11	22,166.69	38,000.00
TOTAL INCOME		127,044.45	140,655.69	241,124.00

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Huron Shores United Church
Income and Expense Statement
Consolidated - January 2025 - July 2025

		Current Period	Current Budget	Annual Budget
EXPENSES				
FIXED EXPENSES				
SALARIES & HONORARIUMS	5050	\$64,011.19	\$70,970.41	\$121,663.63
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE				
Technology/Social Media	5414	1,941.54	1,458.31	2,500.00
Bank Charges	5420	1,037.19	1,166.69	2,000.00
Legal & Audit	5421	0.00	729.19	1,250.00
Office Supplies	5430	458.84	875.00	1,500.00
Postage	5440	0.00	379.19	650.00
Church Phones	5517	1,102.18	1,166.69	2,000.00
Copier Lease	5583	1,048.64	1,283.31	2,200.00
Community Wellness Exp	5585	310.55	116.69	200.00
Subtotal Administrative Expense		5,898.94	7,175.07	12,300.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS				
Electricity and Water	5635	4,482.64	5,833.31	10,000.00
Gas	5655	1,681.91	1,750.00	3,000.00
Building Maint & Repair	5701	691.20	1,166.69	2,000.00
Equipment Maint & Repair	5702	1,444.79	875.00	1,500.00
Lift Main & Rep	5703	2,788.81	1,750.00	3,000.00
Kitchen Working Group	5705	9.46	466.69	800.00
Supplies & Services	5710	73.28	175.00	300.00
Property Taxes	5715	75.00	87.50	150.00
Service Contracts	5720	1,000.41	466.69	800.00
Support Contracts	5726	0.00	175.00	300.00
Insurance	5760	0.00	4,958.31	8,500.00
Landscaping	5810	0.00	58.31	100.00
Lawn Service	5820	0.00	58.31	100.00
Outside Working Group	5830	0.00	145.81	250.00
Subtotal Building & Grounds		12,247.50	17,966.62	30,800.00
Subtotal Fixed Expenses		82,157.63	96,112.10	164,763.63

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Huron Shores United Church
Income and Expense Statement
Consolidated - January 2025 - July 2025

		Current Period	Current Budget	Annual Budget
DEPARTMENTS/COMMITTEES				
COF SUPPORT				
Congregational Care	6040	0.00	87.50	150.00
Card Ministry (postage)	6050	0.00	58.31	100.00
Subtotal COF Support	6010	0.00	145.81	250.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION				
Other	6211	0.00	116.69	200.00
Camps	6225	0.00	233.31	400.00
Church Picnic	6226	0.00	116.69	200.00
Subtotal Christian Education		0.00	466.69	800.00
WORSHIP				
Sanctuary Supplies	6278	0.00	116.69	200.00
Music Supplies	6285	519.93	583.31	1,000.00
Worship Special Projects	6298	403.52	175.00	300.00
Embellishment Group	6299	23.65	116.69	200.00
Subtotal Worship		947.10	991.69	1,700.00
MISSION & OUTREACH				
Community Outreach	6320	495.51	437.50	750.00
Right Relations	6330	50.89	0.00	0.00
Prayer Shawl	6340	123.00	87.50	150.00
Food Bank	6360	0.00	700.00	1,200.00
Subtotal Mission & Outreach		669.40	1,225.00	2,100.00
GRAND BEND PLACE				
GBP Performers	6401	11,400.00	10,645.81	18,250.00
GBP Advertising	6402	1,683.49	0.00	0.00
GBP Food & Lodging	6403	669.16	1,166.69	2,000.00
GBP Fees & Licenses	6405	2,076.68	5,824.56	9,985.00
GBP Tech/Social Media	6406	1,322.01	583.31	1,000.00
GBP Other	6407	703.00	1,166.69	2,000.00
GBP Jazz Vespers	6408	747.00	0.00	0.00
GBP Sunset Cinema	6409	23.87	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Grand Bend Place		18,625.21	19,387.06	33,235.00
FUNDS DEVELOPMENT				
Stewardship	6430	0.00	291.69	500.00
MISSION & SERVICE				
Mission and Service	6460	7,239.45	7,000.00	12,000.00
OTHER EXP-COUNCIL				
Council Discretionary	6610	0.00	291.69	500.00
Minister Discretionary	6611	0.00	291.69	500.00
Affirming	6612	100.00	145.81	250.00
Accessibility	6613	0.00	145.81	250.00
Debenture Payments	6615	10,000.00	5,833.31	10,000.00
Debenture Interest Cost	6615-001	0.00	2,100.00	3,600.00
Denominational Assessment	6620	4,127.50	4,841.69	8,300.00
Mortgage Payments	6630	11,760.00	11,760.00	20,160.00
Fundraising Event Expense	6665	4,670.28	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Other Exp-council		30,657.78	25,410.00	43,560.00
Subtotal Departments/committees		58,138.94	54,917.94	94,145.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		140,296.57	151,030.04	258,908.63
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES		-\$13,252.12	-\$10,374.35	-\$17,784.63



Grand Bend Community Food Pantry Newsletter

Neighbours Helping Neighbours | Summer 2025

Grand Bend Food Pantry Community Advisory Council Established



Marg Alfieri (right) with Pantry Operations Manager Lois Gill

After a grand successful opening event in October, the Grand Bend Community Food Pantry is well under way and busier than expected. Now, Huron Shores United Church has created a Community Advisory Council (CAC) to guide its development. Marg Alfieri, a clinical dietitian who also serves as Chair of the Grand Bend Area Community Health Centre (CHC), is leading the new group.

The CAC will report regularly to the Church, which birthed and houses the Pantry, and other partners in the project. Members of the CAC include Pantry volunteers, representatives from the church and other non-profits, and Operations Manager Lois Gill.

P-10198

Alfieri, a creative and energetic leader, has big plans. She'd like to see a community kitchen and seniors' hub at the church, and hopes to develop closer collaboration with the CHC, the Grand Bend Legion, and other local groups. "The Pantry is part of the community now," she says. "It's about more than just providing food -- it's about building a stronger, more connected community where everyone can thrive."

Alfieri illustrates that point with a story. She met a Pantry client who told her that he had been homeless for 18 months. Thanks to the money he saves by using the Pantry, he is now able to afford a small apartment.

The CAC will also focus on fundraising. "Support has been fantastic to date, the community has been more than generous," says Alfieri. "Now we need a strategy to ensure ongoing support." In addition to personal and corporate contributions, Alfieri is busy applying for grants to support the Pantry and related programming.

"We encourage everyone in the community to visit, volunteer, or donate to the Pantry," she says. "Whether it's a contribution of food, time, or money, every bit counts." *Written by the wonderful Pat Morton - a strong supporter of the pantry*

Update: we have applied for three grants in 2025.

Pantry News & Updates

We welcomed new members to our Community Advisory Council who quickly created some new roles and enhanced our operations with innovations. Mary Beth Billick joined as our Scheduling Coordinator and Judi Clark joined as our Volunteer and Training coordinator. We have been working through some quality improvement changes – how to make things easier for our volunteers. We now have a milk man position - this means all milk is purchased once a week by our big strong milk man. Gerry Davidson is our first milk man – always looking for another 'milk man.' Our volunteers appreciate not having to buy all the milk. We also added a red wagon to make moving groceries from the cars to the basement stock area and then back out to the pantry much easier on everyone's back. One volunteer laughed and said, "we aren't even close to being 60 anymore!" Our volunteers are our heart and engine, so anything to make their work easier is a very good thing. If you have any ideas, let us know- email gbfoodpantry@icloud.com

Sadly, one of our long-term volunteers Yvonne Carroll has moved from Grand Bend to a new chapter in her family's life – so we wish her well. Christine Wilde's job at the church has changed slightly and she is focusing primarily on the Church administrative tasks but remains a pantry volunteer.

Second Harvest

We rescued over **\$5,100** worth of food from Sobeys over the past five months. This represents over 900 meals for our neighbours. More than 300 lbs. of meat have been received. Sobeys' community spirit is feeding Grand Bend and area residents, who are experiencing food insecurity. The food received is freely shared among the three food security sites – the Main/Queen Street Green Door and the Community Health centre's two sites.

Dollar Tree -



Ed and the staff of the Dollar Tree have been filling up containers of donated items for close to a year. Judi Clark pantry volunteer who collects the bins each month and sorts them.

Thank You to our Community Donors



The Legion's first annual car show was amazing. We raised \$399 and gave all the donors packs of homemade cookies – made by our wonderful volunteers of the food pantry and the Huron Shores United Church congregation. The Legion also has generously donated proceeds of \$1348.56 from their car rally to us. More pics to come!

We have our Egg "guy" Jeff who along with his lovely wife, Elaine rescues eggs from No Frills and harvests out the unbroken eggs and makes up new egg cartons. Since No Frills started this "eggcellent" donation program, Jeff and Elaine have harvested over a 100 dozen eggs.

Jeff and Dani (No Frills co-owner)



Our 2 pm volunteers are often in the church basement for several hours stocking the pantry but also repacking bulk items. We are going to try to have a small team of 'master packers' do the flour, sugar, oil etc. twice a month and get most of the repacking done. Then the 2 pm team will only need to do the eggs, butter and meat and this should free up quite a bit of time. Marg will lead the 'master packers' – love to have a few more volunteers. But fair warning, we will be listening to some cool 60's music, as we do want to have some fun! The church is busy – so will try for every other Wednesday mornings 9 am. Email gbfoodpantry@icloud.com if interested.

Volunteer Corner

We welcomed 6 new volunteers: Susan, Karen, Brenda, Lorna, Carol and Marla



Lorna is our newest volunteer and is a very proud and energetic octogenarian! Mary Beth and Judi are seen with Lorna during her first shift at the pantry. I agree with Judi- Lorna will outwork all of us!

West Coast Optimist Club donated \$1000 to the food Pantry. Lois, Debbie and Christine were at the presentation on the main beach. Thank you to this hard working Optimist Club who make Grand Bend so vibrant!



Sunset Foundation

The Grand Bend Community Food Pantry extends our heartfelt thanks to the **Sunset Foundation** for their generous **\$7,000 grant**. Your support allowed us to open our doors and immediately provide healthy, nourishing groceries to young families, seniors, and individuals in need throughout our community. Because of your generosity, our shelves are stocked, our fridges are full, and our neighbours have one less worry on their plates. Thank you for being such stalwart partners in combating food insecurity in the Grand Bend area.

How You Can Help

- **Make a Donation** – Every dollar helps us provide healthy food to those who need it most. Tax receipts available for donations of \$50 or higher. Donor portal can be found at <https://www.huronshoresunitedchurch.com/communitywellness>. Cheques are also welcome and need to be made out to Huron Shores United Church/Food Pantry.
- **Sponsor a Program** – Partner with us to keep our pantry stocked and our doors open.
- **Donate Food or Gift Cards** – Non-perishable food, grocery gift cards, and essentials are always welcome.
- **Become a volunteer!** Volunteers are the heart and soul of the food pantry – literally we are neighbours helping neighbours.

Thank you for your support of the Food
Pantry!

Contact Us

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