

Pathways to Remembering Memorial

Creating a place to remember



Friends and Family are experiencing loss and grief

Did you know...

8 people in Ontario die from accidental drug poisoning every day.

27 people in **Guelph & Wellington County** died from accidental drug poisoning in 2023.

Nearly everyone in our community has been touched by drug poisoning.

“



Karen Lomax

Overdose Coordinator at
Arch HIV/AIDS Resources
and Community Health

In August 2018, I had the privilege of facilitating Overdose Awareness Day in partnership with Guelph Wellington Drug Strategy. At that time we were experiencing a tainted drug supply which has become known as the Opioid Crisis which continues to claim lives every day.

On this particular day, while speaking to those gathered I noticed some folks standing at the back of the audience holding photos of individuals - I wasn't sure who they were and why they were there. As we continued we had a moment of silence and our annual "die -in" to remember the lives lost to drug poisoning, with chalked outlines of people on the ground.

At the end of the ceremony I saw the people with photos coming toward me - these folks were family members and friends, holding pictures of loved ones they had lost to drug poisoning. They placed their pictures in the chalked outlines as an act of memorial.

As we talked, I learned that this ceremony was the only place they could come to remember their loved one and not experience the judgement, hurt and stigma often associated with addiction. This gathering provided a place for these parents and grandparents to grieve, to publicly recognize their loved ones without stigma - and it is the inspiration for the Pathways to Remembering Memorial.

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It impacts us all.

Creating a Place to Remember

The Pathways to Remembering Memorial is being built to show respect and compassion for community members whose lives have been lost to drug poisoning.

For individuals and families, the memorial provides a space for people to grieve and honour their loved one.

For our community, the memorial confronts the stigma that has historically been associated with drug poisoning.



*Mockup of Memorial pictured above

The Pathways to remembering Memorial brings awareness to the drug poisoning crisis and stigma placed on individuals who use substances.



We are grateful to the City of Guelph, who has endorsed the Pathways to Remembering project and is providing space in a local park where the monument will be constructed and maintained by city parks department.

In Collaboration with:



Support. Hope. Thrive.

Help our Community Heal

We've raised **\$16,000** so far, but we need your support to raise **\$34,000** more!

Will you be 1 of 130 ?


15 \$1,000 Donors*

20 \$500 Donors*

20 \$250 Donors

25 \$100 Donors

50 \$50 Donors



**Fundraising Gap
\$35,000**

***Donations of \$500 or more will have commemorative Tall Bluestem Grasses planted at the memorial.**

We need 130 individuals, families and businesses to help us fill our \$34,000 fundraising gap to build the Pathway to Remembering Memorial.

ALL donations will help us fill the gap.

Together with your support we will be able to create a dignified space in our community to honour the people whose lives have been prematurely taken to drug poisoning.

Have questions?

Contact Jean Hopkins, Manager of WGDS for more information:

Phone

519-829-0129

Email

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Scan to donate!



***All donations will receive an official tax receipt.*

