

## Kim Rose

---

**From:** Erin Villeneuve <erinvilleneuve@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** September 21, 2025 8:43 PM  
**To:** Rick Champagne  
**Cc:** Greg Kirton; Kim Rose; Ursula Tkacz  
**Subject:** Opportunity to Apply for Ontario Trillium Foundation Capital Grant for Astor St. South Pocket Park

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor Champagne, Greg and Kim,

I hope you all had a great summer and that your September is off to a good start.

I'm writing to share a grant opportunity that we believe is an excellent fit for the proposed pocket park on Astor Street South. The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) offers a Capital Grant program of up to \$200,000 that can fund construction, development, and equipment, as well as up to 20% of development costs such as surveying, site preparation, and planning.

There is strong precedent for success in our community. In 2022, East Ferris secured two OTF grants totaling \$229,000: a \$79,000 Resilient Communities Fund grant to renovate the public library with new filtration systems, janitorial space, and equipment, and a \$150,000 Capital Grant to create a new 14-kilometre recreational trail. These examples show how OTF has supported similar community projects and demonstrate the potential fit and alignment with our pocket park.

It would be especially advantageous for us to apply in the next round of OTF Capital Grants, which will open on February 5, 2026 and close on March 5, 2026. The timing is ideal because the pocket park is already identified in our Municipal Strategic Plan. Having this alignment with policy demonstrates that the project is a priority for the municipality, shows strong community buy-in, and increases the competitiveness of our application.

We have included a mock-up image of the pocket park design (see below). The concept shows the features we hope to bring to the site, including a small parking lot, a play structure, a swing set, benches, and picnic tables.



My colleague Ursula is a professional grant writer who has successfully written OTF applications in the past, and together we are happy to volunteer our time to assist with preparing the application. We would be glad to meet to review the mock-up, discuss timelines, and outline next steps for submitting a strong application. Could you please let us know a few possible days and times in the coming weeks that would work best for Council or the Recreation Committee?

Best regards,

Erin Plourde

705-498-1968