

Orillia construction association looking for charitable project to help with this year



By [Mehreen Shahid](#), Orillia Packet & Times

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MEHREEN SHAHID/THE PACKET & TIMES The Orillia and District Construction Association, including board member Craig Shelswell, is ready to give back to the community by helping out with a local construction- or trades-related project.

The local construction association wants to get its hands dirty this year for a good cause.

Giving back to the community is a big part of the city's culture, and the Orillia and District Construction Association wants continue to be part of it.

"We're looking for something that's really going to benefit the community and definitely going to use the skills that we have to offer," said Kelly Smith, a director with the association. "To do a project like this is to say, 'We are part of the Orillia community and we want to give back to you.'"

The association represents contractors and tradespeople, such as plumbers, electricians and framers, in the city and surrounding area. Every year, the group looks for a project to which its members can volunteer their services in the form of time, material and labour.

Information about the kinds of projects the association is looking to participate in is at orilliaconstruction.ca. Smith noted the project must be construction-related, benefit the public and have a clear plan because the group seeking assistance will be just as involved as members of the construction association.

"Like the winter carnival, the ice castle was directed by them," Smith said of the group's involvement with Orillia's premier winter event. "They knew how it was to be built and the members provided the labour."

Other community projects the association has helped with include the Regent Park Public School playground and the Scout Valley viewing platform and a house to benefit Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital (OSMH). About a decade ago, members helped build the house, which was constructed on donated land with donated materials. It was later sold, with proceeds going to OSMH.

But, Smith said, a large-scale project such as that needs years to put together, and what the association is looking for now are proposals for jobs that can be undertaken over the course of a weekend.

Applications and proposals can be sent in to info@orilliaconstruction.ca. A decision will be made public by mid-May.

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