

Rotary Club starts 2021 campaign for Splash Pad

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The Rotary Club of Shelburne has officially started their 2021 fundraising campaign to bring a splash pad to the Shelburne community.

Members of the local Rotary Club marked the launch of the 2021 campaign last Thursday (March 25), with the instillation of a fundraising thermometer at the Shelburne Trillium Ford Lincoln dealership. The local dealership is the first business to display the fundraising meter, which will track the progress of donations made to bring a splash pad to the community.

"We've been putting a real push on for this, our 2021 campaign," said Shelburne Rotary member Sandra Gallagher at the thermometer instillation. "Trillium Ford have stepped up as our first business, and we're very happy with that. We've visited other businesses in the area and it looks really positive that the thermometer is going to move pretty quickly, we're very positive about that."

The first business to host the fundraising meter, Trillium Ford is also making a donation to the splash pad.

"Trillium Ford Lincoln Ltd. in Shelburne is so very pleased to provide support for the Shelburne Splash Pad," said Wendy Gabrek, Marketing Manager for Trillium Ford. "We hope our gift will inspire others to give generously to this worthy project, and we can't wait to see families splashing and having fun next summer."

The Shelburne Splash Pad has been an ongoing project for the local Rotary Club over the last few years, with a Splash Pad Committee established to work on the project. In October of 2019 the Splash Pad Committee met with Town Council to present the project and outlined a draft of the projected design, locations, costs and fundraising. The committee met with council again in early 2020 where the location of the splash pad was decided to be Greenwood Park.

"A splash pad is for everybody in the community," said Gallagher. "It's getting families and kids out, being active, having fun and communicating with each other, and that's why we wanted to bring a splash pad to Shelburne."

The Rotary Club of Shelburne has a fundraising goal of \$300,000, and as of Thursday has raised \$131,000 through bottle drives, car washes, private donors, community donations, and the Rotary's own promise of \$30,000.

"We want it to be a community project, everyone feels like they're all part of this fundraiser," said Gallagher.

The fundraising thermometer will stay at the local dealership for two weeks, and then will make its move to another business in the community. Trillium Ford will have a donation jar for customers to donate.

The Shelburne Splash Pad is scheduled to open summer of 2022.