



United Way
Guelph Wellington
Dufferin

MEDIA RELEASE

Top 7 Over 70: New Awards Program Celebrating Older Adults Launches

Guelph, Ontario, February 19, 2026. A new awards program launches today to celebrate the accomplishments of Guelph, Wellington & Dufferin area older adults, with the goal of highlighting the remarkable impact of community members who defy age norms, demonstrating that passion, purpose, and influence don't diminish with time.

The *Top 7 Over 70* awards celebrate seven extraordinary individuals who, *after* the age of 70, make significant and lasting contributions to our community. Their stories serve as a powerful reminder that it is never too late to get involved, give back, and create meaningful change. Started in Calgary in 2017 as a way to recognize individuals making exceptional contributions later in life, the Top 7 Over 70 program has been expanding to communities across Canada the last couple of years.

"We are thrilled to be launching the Top 7 Over 70 program here in Guelph, Wellington & Dufferin," said Glenna Banda, executive director, United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin. "United Way is proud to champion a community where everyone feels like they belong and are valued for their contributions. Our communities are full of dedicated individuals making a difference well beyond their working years – in fact, our communities' volunteer base relies on them!"

"The contributions of seniors are essential to the health and vitality of our communities," said Kim McConnell, Top 7 Over 70 Canada Chair. "They lead, mentor, and give back in ways that truly move the dial. Top 7 Over 70 is a celebration of that ongoing impact, and we are delighted that Guelph Wellington Dufferin is among the first communities in Ontario to bring this inspiring program to life."

The Top 7 Over 70 Awards are *not* a lifetime achievement award, rather they recognize and celebrate an individual's contributions after the age of 70. Nominees may have started a new venture, reprised an existing one, or taken their previous work in a new direction. Regardless of how it started, nominees are making contributions to the fabric of our community in one or more of the following areas: health and recreation, arts and culture, science, business, non-profit, environment, overcoming adversity or making a difference.

Funds raised from the Top 7 Over 70 Awards will support United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin. United Way invests in a diverse list of community programs and services that help over 145,000 people in our local community meet their basic needs, access resources and build a brighter future.

Nominations for the Top 7 Over 70 Awards will open April 1st and winners will be announced at a celebration event in late Fall 2026. More information will be available at unitedwaygwd.com

If you are interested in sponsoring the event, or volunteering, please contact United Way at 519-821-0571 or colleen@unitedwaygwd.com

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United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin has worked in our community for over 85 years to monitor and meet the pressing social needs of our community, including poverty, social isolation and mental health. Directed by a volunteer board, managed by committed staff and supported by thousands of donors, United Way works with partners in all sectors to improve lives and build community. Donations to United Way are accepted year-round, by visiting us online at unitedwaygwd.com or by calling the United Way office 519-821-0571. 100% of donations make an impact in Guelph, Wellington & Dufferin. For more information, please visit unitedwaygwd.com

For more information:

Glenna Banda, Executive Director
United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin
226-326-0237 glenna@unitedwaygwd.com

Colleen Murdoch
Director, Community Engagement & Impact
United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin
226-326-0233 colleen@unitedwaygwd.com