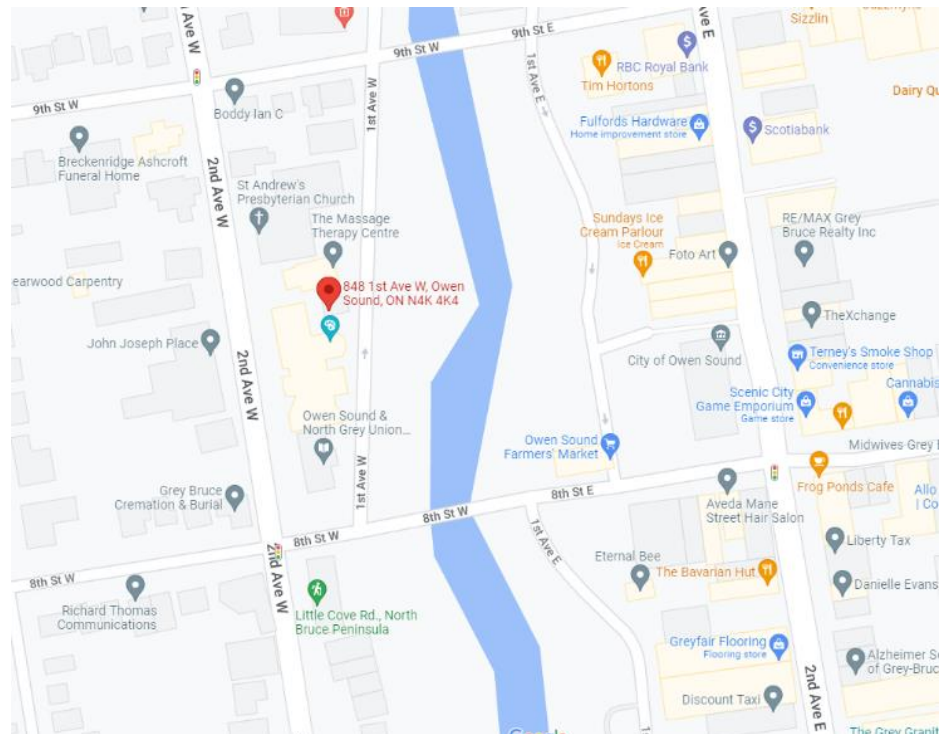




To offer support to the people of Ukraine fleeing the war, the City of Owen Sound, the Grey Bruce Community Foundation and other local organizations and community leaders are collaborating to offer housing and other integration services at the location currently known as the Rice House, 848 1st Avenue East, Owen Sound.

The Ukrainian Village of Owen Sound will be dedicated to Ukrainians with a Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (CUAET) visa and will serve as a transitional hub. The Village will offer accommodations, community and social assistance, connection to employers and other much-needed supports. It. The goal of The Village is to minimize settlement challenges and barriers for Ukrainians coming to the area. The Village's focus is to support women with children, as Ukrainian men are currently not allowed to leave Ukraine. After the initial settlement phase and adjustment, the goal is to help these families transition to accommodations of their own, thereby potentially freeing spaces for additional Ukrainian families.

The proposed location of the Ukrainian Village is owned by the city of Owen Sound and can be offered to Ukrainian CUAET visa holders for a period of 1 year to 18 months. This location has four apartments that can accommodate four families. The location of The Village is within walking distance of all city amenities, which makes it easy for newcomers to function day to day without the immediate need for personal transportation. With easy access to grocery stores, a pharmacy, banks, the YMCA fitness centre, playgrounds,



restaurants, and parks, this location is ideal for The Ukrainian Village.

The building will need minor cosmetic changes in some areas, such as paint, new doors, window replacements, and some drywall patching/installation. A thorough cleaning of the space will be required, including all carpets and appliances. Furniture will be needed in almost all apartments and general supplies (pots, pans, bedding, cleaning supplies). Some renovation supplies will be donated, as well as labour for renovations. The estimated initial investment required is \$10,000.

Employment

Many local business leaders within the community have offered their help in supporting The Village to provide employment opportunities to the residents. RONA and Troy Life & Fire Safety may be able to provide warehouse employment, where basic knowledge of English will be sufficient. Chapman's Ice Cream also offered employment at their factory if transportation challenges can be resolved.

Childcare

Local Lutheran Church offered some assistance with childcare and other support for Ukrainian newcomers. Subsidized childcare can be provided through one of the local daycares within Owen Sound.

School Education

BWDSB confirmed their capacity to accommodate Ukrainian children. Ukrainian newcomers do not have to pay fees to attend school in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. The ministry has provided the procedure for supporting Ukrainian students who have been granted an emergency authorization to enter or remain in Canada. BWDSB can accept a letter from the homeowner/host indicating the address where the family will be residing. Two schools in Owen Sound offer ESL support to new students.

Supplies

Most people fleeing from Ukraine left without many personal belongings. In the initial stages of their transition to The Village, they will require clothing, school supplies, toys, self-care products, books, non-perishable food, etc. Some of these items can be gathered through local school Food Drives and community events organized through social media. We do not expect to require any funding for this, as we anticipate widespread community support of this initiative, including generous donations working through church groups.

The list of organizations that offered their help and support includes:

- United Way Food Security Coordinator for Grey Bruce
- Lutheran Church
- Grey Bruce Community Foundation

Management & Administration

A group of 3 volunteers would form a Board that would assist in the operations of The Village. This group will review applications of Ukrainian newcomers to make sure people within the centre's priorities would be welcomed to The Village. The Board would ensure the functionality of the centre and

the well-being of its residents. It will also navigate all ongoing events related to fundraising. The members of this Board will be required to commit to their position as a Board member for at least one year.

We recommend the Council appoint one primary contact to oversee the Village on behalf of the City of Owen Sound. This contact would work closely with the Board of volunteers.

Timing

The facility is currently vacated and available for renovations after approval from the Council. As Ukrainian people are arriving in Canada already, the timing of this effort is extremely important.

Government Support

Ukrainians in Ontario, under the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel, are eligible to apply for Emergency Assistance which provides temporary financial support for basic needs and shelter in crises. Ukrainian newcomers must apply here for Emergency Assistance (gov.on.ca) to qualify for Emergency Assistance. This help is limited to two weeks of accommodation and living costs, but every little bit will help. CUAET receivers are eligible for OHIP.

Ontario is providing the Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society with \$900,000 of additional funding over three years, from 2022-2025, to help enhance the agency's capacity to respond to the crisis and increased demand to support new arrivals from Ukraine. We will attempt to obtain some of this funding.

Long Term Outlook

One of the central premises of The Village is to circulate people into the community after the initial settlement stages once they have a firm job and find accommodations outside of the Ukrainian Village of Owen Sound. This will enable The Village to take in additional families in need on a short to mid-term basis. If this model is successful, it can be upscaled to any similar or larger facilities that come available.

Other Supporting Services

Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society <https://cuias.org/wp/Settlement.org> [Information Newcomers Can Trust | Settlement.Org](https://cuias.org/wp/Settlement.org)
Orientation to Ontario <https://settlement.org/o2o/>

Important Considerations

- Newcomers can't buy a car without getting a Canadian driver's licence. Passing a driver's test with limited knowledge of English might be an issue.
- A formal budget is currently being prepared.
- Decisions will need to be made promptly in order to ensure The Village is operational when it is most needed.