

started fundraising, bringing the entire community together. Through community donations and Wintario Grants, they were able to build the 10,000 square foot facility.

"Our Community Centre is the epitome of community," Faye Carslake, the Event Coordinator and Fundraiser for the centre, told Kawartha 411 news. "It was built by the community for the community and remains the hub of the community."

There are 24 other community centres in the City of Kawartha Lakes but they are all municipally owned and maintained by the City using tax dollars. Pontypool also has a privately owned community centre.

It costs about \$3,000 a month just to keep the doors open and Carslake says the pandemic made it more difficult to keep it going.

"We are very frugal and careful and thankfully we've had a bit of a reserve to get through COVID. "We still have to pay the bills, it costs a substantial amount every month, we still have to maintain it, clean it, heat it etc."

The building has a large event room that can hold up to 360 people. A smaller room that will hold up to 150 people and another area built specifically to house a library. The City rents out the library space and Carslake says without that rent they wouldn't be able to keep the doors open.

"We get a bit of tax relief from the City. We also have the library, the building was built for the library and without that rent we would be in big trouble."