

# Motus O receives Trillium foundation grant

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Writer

A Stouffville dance troupe has received a \$260,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The money, to be spread over five years, was awarded to Motus O Dance Theatre.

The funding will be used to promote Motus O's performances and increase tourism. It will enable more professional dance performances and instruction in York Region.

The money also enables the company to hire a full-time general manager and help develop infrastructure, increase marketing and enhance fundraising.

The funding is welcome news, Motus O general manager Jack

Langenhuizen said.

"We just finished a three-week tour in New Brunswick and we're off to British Columbia for a four-week tour next month," he said.

Since its formation in 1990 by James and Cindy Croker, Motus O has created eight full-length productions for family and adult audiences. The troupe is made up of three art directors and five dancers.

"The troupe continues to tour throughout North America, bringing their innovative and highly visual works to both small and large communities alike," Mr. Langenhuizen said.

Toronto area communities, including Stouffville, are benefiting from 43 Ontario Trillium

Foundation grants totaling \$4.2 million.

The funding to charitable and non-profit organizations was announced by Ontario Culture Minister Madeleine Meilleur.

"These latest Ontario Trillium Foundation grants will make a difference and have a huge impact on the quality of life across Ontario," Ms Meilleur said.

"Now more than ever before, Ontarians have opportunities to become involved in their communities. The foundation supports community activities that help individuals experience better health and enjoy social and economic benefits. Volunteers and participants in these activities build healthy and vibrant

communities."

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives \$100 million of government funding annually through Ontario's charity casino initiatives.

The foundation builds healthy and vibrant communities by strengthening the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives, Ms Meilleur said.

## Group teaches dance for festival

Motus O, the avant-garde Stouffville dance theatre company, will teach a dance people can

perform with the company during the Mayworks Festival of Working People and the Arts.

The 20th anniversary celebration in Toronto is May 1 at the Steelworkers Hall, 25 Cecil St. in Toronto.

The day begins with a noon barbecue, followed by storytelling and costume making. At 3:30 p.m. Motus O leads festival participants through a dance for all ages.

Motus O offers movement and physical theatre workshops and residencies to trained and non-trained dancers.

For more information on Mayworks log on to [www.mayworks.ca](http://www.mayworks.ca)



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