

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



For more information, please contact:

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Event Details:

Tuesday July 23rd, 10am-4pm
Depave Paradise
At the Blue Mountain
Foundation for the Arts
163 Hurontario St., Collingwood, ON.
L9Y 4E8

We are now seeking volunteers for this event. Volunteers will be provided with all the necessary tools and equipment. Please come dressed for work, with appropriate attire and closed-toe shoes, sunscreen, and a refillable stainless steel water bottle. Lunch and water will be provided.

We are gearing up to DEPAVE Paradise!

In partnership with Green Communities Canada, the Environment Network is getting ready for our first **Depave Paradise** project. Working with the Blue Mountain Foundation for the Arts, we will be de-paving approximately 350 square feet of asphalt behind the BMFA building and transforming it into a green space for staff and the community to enjoy.

Depave Paradise is a pilot project of **Green Communities Canada** and is now engaging volunteers and neighbourhoods in six Ontario communities, removing pavement and planting gardens filled with native species in its place.

Health problems related to water pollution are estimated to cost Canadians upwards of \$300 million per year. Hard surfaces, such as driveways, parking lots and buildings interrupt the natural water cycle by preventing rain water from soaking into the ground and creating heat sinks, which in turn is warming up our cities and towns.

By removing pavement and replacing it with native plants, trees and shrubs we are increasing the infiltration rate, recharging our groundwater supply, and cooling our neighbourhoods. The hands-on depaving process captures the hearts and energies of diverse people with a shared goal of creating vibrant, beautiful and healthy communities. Depave also builds awareness and promotes community-based stewardship, directly benefitting residents, as well as the local watershed.

The BMFA is excited to be part of this project, to spruce up the rear entrance to the building and making it an inviting space for staff and artists.

Depave Paradise is based on the highly successful Depave organization out of Portland Oregon. In it's four years of operation, 60,000 sq feet of pavement have been reclaimed and turned into healthy green spaces.