

From: [Paul DAWSON](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Cc: [Mark JANES](#)
Subject: Request of Council
Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 3:16:36 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-q5slddat.png](#)

Madame Mayor and the Committee Members of Thames Centre,

My name is Paul Dawson, and I am the Construction/Woodworking SHSM Teacher here at Lord Dorchester Secondary School . Over the last three years we have become keenly aware of the benefits that can come through participation in the FIRST Robotics program. I am also the lead Mentor for our FRC Team, Lord Dorchester Robotics “The Lost 10mm Sockets”, Team #8789. Our school is a rural school of 675+ students (and growing), and we feel this season will be one of our best thanks to the ongoing support from the people and council of Thames Centre. The school population has become more diverse, reflecting all parts of our municipality, as has our team since our inception three years ago.

Your support for our STEM-based (Science Technology Engineering Math) robotics team has improved students' access to technology and opportunity. FRC allows students to participate in STEM activities and broaden access to all the students in our school. We have between 40-45 students who are ready and willing to participate. By providing this access to technology we now have a number of students that are looking into the STEM fields including Engineering and Skilled Trades. This would not have happened without the support of the council.

The potential continued sponsorship from the Thames Centre Community will strengthen Lord Dorchester Robotics to go forward, with financial stability. These opportunities have allowed us to reach out to new community partners in the public and private sectors. This community building through fundraising also highlights what our students get in return for their participation in *FIRST*, a deeper connection to the community that they live and will potentially work in as adults. Employers have seen the benefits of supporting STEM through our team. As our community grows, we have been blessed with a wide range of young people who need the ability to grow intellectually and emotionally in a safe and supportive environment, such as the one that only a *FIRST* Robotics Team can offer.

Currently, we are asking for \$5000.00 to help with the 2023-24 season. Offsetting the many costs involved like entrance fees, bussing, hotels, and the materials needed to compete at a provincial level. This sponsorship money will help reduce financial barriers to all students, regardless of socio-economic status, who wish to participate. This leveling of this playing field gives our students access to technology that they would otherwise have to leave our community to learn from. We cannot overstate the number of words of support we have received from various community groups. Our outreach to the Playroom Experiment has allowed our team members to work with families with Autistic children, opening them up to a better understanding of the needs that some families in Thames Centre face. Team #8789 is ready to compete, learn and share our collective knowledge to other Teams and students during the 2023-24 *FIRST* season. We look forward to your positive support of our Team, our students, and our community.

In the Spirit of Gracious Professionalism,

Together in Education
Paul A Dawson
(he/him)

Construction SHSM Lead
Lord Dorchester Secondary School
Lead Mentor Lord Dorchester Robotics Team #8789
"teaching real skills to today's youth"



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