

Fusion Youth Centre Summer 2010 Update

July, 2010

The Fusion Youth Centre continues to be a lifeline for the youth in our community. The centre has experienced some new and exciting changes in the past few months and we are all very eager to share these changes with you.

Much of the regular programming has been continuing with great success. The fitness program is an important part of the services offered at Fusion and in order to expand the program, the centre has recently renovated the entire sports field. Prior to the renovation, the sports field was unsafe to use making outdoor sports very difficult to say the least. The sports field was repaired, graded and sod was laid to create a space where outdoor sports are possible. This work was completed by a local company who allowed a group of youth to help with some of the work. Aside from using the field for regular programming, we hope to eventually offer low to no cost outdoor sports leagues.

The Girls and Guys Group have been running successfully as well. The Girls Group recently went on their end-of-session field trip where they were taken out for dinner, went shopping and got to stay at the centre for a sleepover. The Girls Group will be doing a Cake Walk Fundraiser at the Canterbury Folk Festival to fundraise for the next session beginning in September. The Guys Group is currently organizing a dodgeball tournament and any interested youth are welcome to participate. Both groups are run at no cost to the youth, however both groups do fundraising to cover the costs for their special events.

The Art program is also doing well, especially thanks to the recent contribution from the Ingersoll Community Foundation. This donation will be used to stock the art room with quality supplies to be used for the program. This will affect the program tremendously as the lack of supplies had put a strain on what the youth could accomplish artistically. We are all excited to see the amazing work that will be created using the new supplies.

The Nutrition program welcomes new youth employee, Eric. Eric has been awarded a six month contract after winning the most recent So You Think You Can Cook contest. He won with an amazing fettucine alfredo recipe and is now employed to cook in the canteen four nights each week. Eric has been given Safe Food Handling training and with his passion for cooking, he is sure to be an asset in the kitchen.

The Youth Advisory Council is currently seeking new members with an interest in making positive changes in their community. The 'Yackers' successfully had recycling bins placed throughout town when they noticed that there were none available. With this recent goal now complete, the 'Yackers' are looking for a new project to take on. Any youth interested in joining the Youth Advisory Council are encouraged to visit the centre.

We are also happy to report on the Youth Entrepreneur Partnership Program being funded for another round. This program introduces youth to entrepreneurial culture and coordinates all four of Fusion's social enterprises. We are happy to report that with the support of the entrepreneur program, a local youth has been accepted by the Summer Company program. Alex will be operating his summer business

out of the youth centre and will offer computer services and virus removal. We are so proud of you, Alex! Furthermore, youth with an interest in the following areas are encouraged to visit the centre to discover the opportunities available: catering and food services, multimedia, the recording studio and electronic waste collection. The e-waste collection has been very successful and the drop off has remained steady. The centre accepts any electronic waste with the exception of kitchen appliances. We recently hosted a special e-waste collection event at the Stereoman Technology tour which employed five youth for the weekend. The multimedia enterprise has been steady as we have been working on a few projects for local business. We are working on completing promotional videos. In addition to this work, we have also completed recording the Big Break 4 CD with Heart FM. The music program offers assistance with lyrics, vocal work, songwriting, and lessons for drums, guitar and piano. The music studio is an amazing atmosphere where all youth are encouraged to discover their hidden talents!

One of the most recent additions to the Fusion centre is the installation of the radio booth. This has been made possible by a donation from the Oxford Small Business Support Centre and will quite literally give the youth an outlet to voice their opinions at the centre. The radio booth will have its grand opening on June 28th and will welcome local dignitaries. A group of youth is currently being trained on the equipment and will be ready to broadcast throughout the centre following the grand opening.

Along with the regular programming, there are many special events occurring over the summer. The centre will be taking a bus to Canada's Wonderland in July (date to be determined) at a minimal cost to the youth. They will also be going to see the Blue Jays game on Rotary Day, August 8th. Lastly, the centre will be hosting Fusion's 3rd Annual Skate and Bike Competition on August 14. We always encourage youth to become members when they participate in these events, however it is not mandatory and all youth are welcome to come along. Please check out the newest Here In Ingersoll magazine for our updated program schedule.

Each time a few months pass and we reflect on the changes that have occurred it is always amazing to comment on the progress we have made. The centre is constantly full of busy bodies and busy minds striving to make the centre the best it can possibly be. We are always looking to our mission and asking the same question: What do our youth need to thrive? The hope has always been that the centre would be a place where youth come not only to realize potential, but to build on it as well. Anyone who has not visited our centre is always welcome to do so because we also think that you won't believe it until you see it. As always, we would like to thank the community for their continued support and for recognizing the importance of the centre. With new and exciting projects underway from the art program to electronic waste, we really believe that the Fusion Youth Centre plays an important role in the Ingersoll community.

For more information, please contact the following:

Fusion Youth Centre

Stop by: 121 Thames Street North

Call: 519-485-4386

E-mail: info@ingersoll.ca