

Fusion Youth Activity & Technology Centre

Town Council Report – June 2008

1. Facility

Skate Park- We are seeing anywhere from 30-50 people using the park each day. We are seeing other communities come and use the park such as Norwich, Tillsonburg, London, St. Thomas, Woodstock, Stratford and others. We have been told it is one of the best parks around. Having staff supervise the park as been a great asset to keeping the park clean and drug/alcohol free.

The Youth Technology Learning Centre continues to grow and populate with new youth attending. The Imac media studio is also seeing new youth attending its programs along with the homework room being full of activity as youth finish up on year end projects.

The Fusion Canteen- we plan to launch our Nutrition program in early June and start to offer nutritious meals each day. Those youth who participate and help cook, prepare and serve the meals will be given a free meal for every 2 hours the put into the program. This will allow youth who can not afford a meal and opportunity to work for one. Those who can afford a meal will be charge \$3 per meal plus their drink.

Recording Studio and music programs have been very busy. As we await the results of our RED funding for the equipment for the studio, youth have been busy creating and learning music. Our music program is bursting at the seams. Our music programs are always in high demand as more and more parents find out what Fusion has to offer in terms of music lessons/jam sessions.

Out side Activities- Katimavik, Youth and Staff have recently landscaped the front of our facility and it looks amazing. Staff and Youth have also worked hard on reconstructing the raised flower bed at the back of Fusion for our vegetable garden that will be used for our cooking and nutrition programs.

2. Funding

Grants- Bill Mates has been extremely busy with writing grant after grant on behalf of Fusion and a number or local Town of Ingersoll Initiatives. WE have several grants out there that we are just waiting on responses from. Bill will also be reapplying to Trillium for \$75,000 for the recording studio equipment. Please see with this report an entire list of grants we are currently working on or have received.

Staff have also started to plan some of there fundraising events and plan to start running their fundraisers in the summer.

RED application has been submitted and we are awaiting the approval from the Ministry.

We are also applying for \$69,000 funding from **Communities in Action Fund** for increasing our nutrition and physical activity programs. Some of the funding will be to create programs that will target youth obesity and will encourage youth to get active!

Microsoft Canada has indicated an interest in donating computers, software and operating dollars to the Technology Centre. We are currently working on meeting and touring the Executives through the facility sometime in the summer and finalizing our partnership with them.

United Way as donated \$7,500.00 to our girls group, guy group, DUKE club and Yakers group.

Recycle IT program creates revenue for the YTLC and its technology programs. This new initiative is headed up by Kathryn McCulloch and about 10-15 youth who are trying their hands at recycling. With the creation of this program we NOW accept anything electronic accept for TVs and monitors.. Our first

three weeks we have brought in \$960.00 for the month of April. We continue to take in more and more e-waste and hope to see this program expand and bring in more revenue for the centre.

3. Programs

Imac Studio is in full gear- This great program allows our youth to come in and learn anything there is to know about web design, graphic design, video editing, photography, film making, sound creation, and flash. Recently we have completed the design of some of the Ingersoll Magazine pages, day camp carnival page, Ingersoll Community Foundation Letterhead, Kiwanis Club Poster, Skating carnival video and more. We have also been asked if we would consider doing the Alexandria Hospitals 100th anniversary Video!!!

Guys Group and the Seniors centre in Ingersoll are currently working building a Soap Box Derby car that will be competing in a Tillsonburg and Ingersoll race. The guys group will be racing the cars on behalf of Fusion and the Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll.

Just a kind reminder to check out the latest **“Here in Ingersoll”** Magazine and see our new hip summer programs. This summer is action packed with a number of creative youth events and program. Check out the guide as well for our feature story and front cover picture of our youth! All our summer programs and events are in the Magazine!

Youth, youth and More Youth!!!! We are seeing a steady increase in our programs and registrations at the centre. For the past 3 months we have been averaging any where from 90-110 youth a night on a consistent basis. WOW we are busy. We have also had a huge number of new registrations and are continually seeing new faces. We have several youth who are a month away from there 12 birthday and they continue stop by to remind us that they are getting closer to age to access our facility.

School Presentations- Our staff are currently at IDCI every Wednesday at lunch advertising our programs and working with the school. We also make frequent visits to other schools in Ingersoll to promote our programs and Fusion.

Youth Awards where handed out to about 44 youth and what an impact this had on them! Lots of the youth who won awards have never won anything before so this night was especially special to them. Every youth that has received an award will have their picture and award they won placed on a full colour wooden plaque that will be posted in the centre. We plan to do this on a yearly basis.

In the September we already have some new program lined up. We plan to run in Partnership with Junior Achievement to run the **Company program with 14-20 youth**. Also in September we plan to kick off a Youth Literacy program that will be geared to youth that are 14-19 and are not attending school. This is being done in **partnership with Fanshawe College**.

4. Community Development

Youth Column will now be featured in the Ingersoll Times. Starting in just a couple weeks Fusion has been able to get a spot in the paper for Youth to write a specific column on youth issues and to provide them a place to voice their opinion. This 500 word column will feature the youth and their picture as well as the Youth Advisory Council logo. The Youth Council will be in charge of this column and will submit to the paper weekly! What a great thing for the Newspaper to do.

Fusion Youth Centre Annual Report is currently being developed. We hope to release this annual report the last week of June which will highlight the last year of operations at Fusion. This Annual report will include several of our success stories, our stats, comments from our Mayor, James, Bonnie, MPP, MP, High School Principal, and OPP Sergeant. This Annual report will also high light our 2008/2009 operational goals. It will also feature a number of other things including our staff team and programs. This report is taking longer then expected due to the volume of content including detailed stats, success stories and more!

National Youth Week May 1-12- was a huge success with loads of activities and events. We had over 50 youth at our Downtown coffee house with lots of comments from community members and parents so impressed by the youth and the way they conducted themselves! All other events were a huge success and it was a great week to celebrate the youth in Ingersoll.

Rib fest was a huge success as we had over **125 youth out to our Youth Carnival at Rib Fest**. Tyler was one of our youth who was selected to be a judge with Rib fest this year. We had 6 carnival type games at Rib fest that all seemed to go over very well. Fusion also ran sound for the bands and helped to sell tickets and pick up garbage at the event. At the event we got the opportunity to talk to lots of parents about the Youth Centre. Since Rib Fest we have registered nearly 25 new participants and handed out another 20 registration forms!

The **Ingersoll Community Youth Strategic Planning** (as per the **Ingersoll Comprehensive Strategic Plan November 2003 under the YOUTH ACTION PROGRAM PHASING**) process is underway being facilitated by a Bill Mates. Staff, youth and council/senior administration have met. Other dates to meet with other community groups are forthcoming. This strategic plan is well underway and we are looking forward to the finished 5 year plan specific to Fusion.

5. Tours of the Facility and Speaking Engagement

Most recently we have had **Dr. Gina Brown** tour our facility who is the Director of System-Linked Research at McMaster University. We are planning for her to return to do some on going work and support with our facility and programs.

This month we toured 3 municipalities, York University, 3 businesses, 25 from Sacred Heart Catholic Church members, 15-20 parents, and several new participants.

Jason Smith and Michelle Murphy will be speaking at the **International Institute for Restorative Justice Practice's 11th World Conference in October**. Our workshop in partnership with the OPP is called Restoring and Developing Community Capacity Through Youth-Directed Decision Making. Check out <http://www.iirp.org/on08/index.php> for more information. This will take Fusion to the International stage!

Bonnie and Jason will be attending and speaking at the **Winter Lights Workshop** in St. Marys on June 5.

We also have a number of other proposals out to speak at other up coming conferences.

6. Up coming meetings and dates to remember

Our next Youth Action Committee meeting is June 17 at 3:00pm at Fusion Youth Centre. All are welcome to attend this as well. Great progress is taken place.

The Business Advisory Committee meets on a monthly basis to help support the Fusion Youth Centre in a number of ways. We are having a Lunch and Lean type meeting on **June 19 2008 at 12:00pm**. All are welcome to attend these meetings and lunch will be provided.

Fundraising Chart
for Fusion Youth Centre and other Town of Ingersoll Related projects

Grant	Total Grant Amount	Applied	Accepted	Rejected
United Way of Oxford – Fusion Girls, Guys, DEA and Yackers	\$7500.00	October 2007	X	
Think <i>First</i> Foundation – 40 helmets for the skate park	\$900.00	November 2007	X	
Ontario Trillium Foundation Canterbury Folk Festival Final Report 2007	\$15,000.00		2006 money	
Application 2008	\$48,000.00	November 2007	X	
Ontario Arts Council Canterbury Folk Festival	\$10,000	November 2007		X
RED Grant Fusion - \$223,000 Arts Ingersoll - \$50,000	\$783,000	December 2007		
Fresh Start – Arts Presentation Canada Development	\$7500.00	February 2008		
Cultural Strategic Investment Fund Oxford Creative Connections Worked on this with Vicki and Cathy Bingham	\$15000	February 2008	X	
Celebrate Ontario Provided draft letters of support from Chamber and BIA for Bonnie		February 2008	X	
Ingersoll Recreation Trails Committee (IRTC) See funding strategy document with tentative proposals: 1. Signature / special events (OTD and Dinner in the Woods) 2. OTF for July 01, 2008	Under Construction			
Arts Ingersoll See funding strategy document with tentative proposals: 1. Signature / special events	Under Construction			

2. Red Grant for staffing				
Communities in Action Fund (CIAF) for Fusion activities (Mark, Audrey and Laurie provided assistance)	\$69,000	March 2008		
National Crime Prevention Centre LOI for Fusion for Girls, Guys, DEA and Yackers	\$18,000	March 2008	Under Review Mar 31/08	
Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund Canterbury Folk Festival Working with Ted on this	Under review			
Arts Presentation Canada Department of Canadian Heritage www.canadianheritage.gc.ca	Under review			
PQR Limited Stephen Couchman – Thornbury Ontario Letter of Intent sent March 2008	\$20,000 Under Construction	March 2008		
Ingersoll Community Foundation To compliment ‘Dare to Dream Program” grant application by Mark and Fusion Youth for Arts programming	\$5000.00	April 01 2008	Approved pending RBC grant	
Oxford Community Foundation in coordination with Jason	Under review			
2008 Summer Experience Program Grant to Laura Lee Dam - covers 90% of wage	\$2401.49	March 28 2008	Approved	
Poverty and Oral Health Announcement – Ministry of Health Promotion	Under review			
Emily Robson Municipal Cultural Planning Funding opportunities Coordinate with Jason	Under review			
RBC Foundation After School Grants	\$25,000.00	April 28	Under review looks good	
Agape Foundation London (Jay Campbell the weather guy) For outdoor DEA programs	\$5000.00 Under Construction	Anytime		
Hydro One Power Play Grant Capital grant towards construction (addition to Kathryn’s room for recycling)	\$25,000 Under Construction			
Wall-Mart with Lisa M. Art supplies	\$500.00 Under Construction			

TYPS Fusion projects – Amazing Race etc.	\$4000.00	March 2008	X	
OACP Substance Abuse Committee Support programs that deal directly with drug prevention and / or information sharing involving youth within the community.	\$500 to \$3500.00	April 21, 2008	Passed on Drug Task Force doing	
Ronald McDonald House Foundation call John Lessif ASAP	Could be up to \$30,000 Under review			
OTF for July 01 for Fusion for recording equipment OTF 2007 report needs to be completed ASAP.	\$75,000 Under review			
The Call for Applications is now open for the “Enabling Accessibility Fund”.	Could be up to \$50,000	April 30, 2008	Did not submit Decided not at this time	
Youth Entrepreneurship Partnerships (YEP) initiative.	Could be up to \$100,000 for 3 years Under review	Email sent to get more info		
Canadian Heritage Contact Jeanette Monk and / or Rick Verette - Arts Grants – met at Mt. Elgin Funding workshop	Could be up to \$50,000 Under review			
Ministry of Attorney General Truth Dunlop London office Possibility of funding through the Victim Services Division	Could be up to \$20,000 Under review			
Ministry of Culture Ontario Arts Council New funding announced April 29	Could be up to \$50,000			
Canterbury Folk Festival SOCAN Foundtion Concert Music Season Grants -> Core Funding Grants -> Festival Grants ->	Due April 15 08 Aug 31 08 March 01 09	These are complicated applications and will need time to write		
Compass Grant	Under Construction			