

**TOWN OF INGERSOLL  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
MONTHLY REPORT – DECEMBER 2009**

*Report No. R-005-10*

*Approval Date: December 14, 2009*

**Mayor Holbrough & Members of Council:**

1. Parks & Recreation Department Upcoming Meetings & Special Events:

**WinterLights – Home Decorating Awards Presentation**

Monday, January 11, 2010 - 7:00 pm

Council Chambers

**Santa's Festival Village**

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Fridays – 6 pm to 9 pm

Saturdays – 1 pm to 9 pm

Special Holiday Hours – 2 pm to 4 pm

December 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 & 30, 2009

**CIB Meeting**

Wednesday, January 20, 2010 – 7:00 pm

**Recreational Trails Committee Meeting**

Thursday, January 21, 2010 – 7:00 pm

J C Herbert Room – Town Offices

**Oxford County Trails Council**

Monday, January 4, 2010 – 1 pm – County Building

**Fusion Christmas Dinner**

Thursday, December 17, 2009 - 5:30 pm

**Arts Ingersoll**

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 – 5 pm – JC Herbert Room

**Bringing the Olympic Flame to Ingersoll**

Sunday, December 27, 2009

Community Torch Relay Ceremony – 9:30 am – Town Hall

Torch Relay Route:

Start Time – 9:23 am – Bell Street East (McKeand Street), Thames St

(South), Charles Street (West), Oxford St (South), **Community Torch**

**Relay Ceremony – 9:36 am Town Hall**, King St (East), Thames St

(South), Canterbury St. (East), Hwy 19 to Elmhurst – End Time – 9:51 am

2. RinC Project Implementation Status:
  - VPCC Pool/Deck Tile Replacement
    - Tender Awarded – Acapulco Pools
    - Construction Date: April 6, 2010 to June 18, 2010
  
  - Trail Upgrades & Extensions
    - Trails Paved – Completed (Yvonne Holmes Mott Memorial & Smith’s Pond Park)
    - North Meadows Naturalized Trail – Completed
    - Lighting Smith’s Pond Trail – Spring 2010
  
  - VPCC Dryton Unit Replacement
    - Drawings, Specifications & Tender Documents Completed
  
  - Fusion – Heating & Cooling Systems Upgraded & Replaced
    - Drawings, Specification & Tender Documents Completed
  
3. Staff Work Projects:
  - 2010 Operating Budgets
  - Santa’s Festival Village & Festival of Lights
  - WinterLights Celebrations
  - Tourism Ingersoll Committee – 2010 Visitor Guide
  - Community Strategic Plan Implementation – Recreation, Leisure & Sports
  - Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) Program – Project Implementation
  - Town Employee Policy Manual Review
  - Health & Safety Policies, Procedures & Training
  - 2010 Olympic Torch Relay – School Program & Community Torch Relay Celebration
  
4. While preparing the 2010 Parks and Recreation Operating Budget the Director requested Managers to recommend budget reductions that would not have a large impact on the level of service being provided to the community.

The following budget reductions have been incorporated in the 2010 Operating Budget with a start date of January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010:

<u>Recommended Reduction</u>	<u>Current Hours</u>	<u>Recommended Change</u>
VPCC – Reduction of Building Hours <b>Budget Reduction - Approx - \$15,000</b>	Saturdays - 8 am to 8 pm Sundays - 9 am to 5 pm	Saturdays – 8 am to 5 pm  Sundays – 9 am to 1 pm
Fusion – Reduction of Building Hours <b>Budget Reduction – Approx - \$ 14,000</b>	Saturdays - 1 pm to 11 pm	Saturdays – 4 pm to 11 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ward, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department

**Fusion Youth Activity & Technology Centre**  
**December 2009 Council Report**  
Wednesday December 9, 2009

## 1. Facility Update

**Alternative Education-** We are pleased to have the **Thames Valley District School Board, Alternate Education** with us since **September 8, 2009**. They occupy the new training lab Mon-Fri 8:30-2:00.

**Fusion Bathroom Renovation:** through a grant that we recently received we are now planning to have our bathroom completely renovated in December and into the New Year. This will see the replacement of all toilets, sinks, flooring, plumbing, and washroom stalls. Look for our new facelift on the washrooms in the 2010.

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## 2. Funding Update

**Recently applied for \$10,000 for the development of the Fusion Business Plan, along with \$5,000** in printed marketing material for the centre and it was approved on December 8, 2009.

**Nuclear Waste Management Organization-** Grant in the amount of \$14, 700 was accepted. The Ingersoll Youth Advisory committee and the BIA along with Bonnie and Jason will be implementing this grant that will see another 20 recycling bins in our downtown and parks.

**Accessibility Grant Funding-** was approved in the amount of \$24,500 for Fusion, which will see that both washrooms fully renovated and brought up to accessibility standards. This announcement is also in conjunction with Elaine Clark's grant. This is 100% funding and no dollars are need from the Town to see this project completed!

Other grants are ongoing for the continual develop of Fusion and its programs on an ongoing basis. Our focus is on writing grants that require no funding from the Town of Ingersoll.

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## 3. Fusion Programs

**Check out the New "Here in Ingersoll" Magazine.** We have lots of winter programming happening. Launching in mid November 2009 we will now be offering Rebuilt IT 5 days per week, stop motion animation, Fitness classes and programming 3 days per week, recording studio lessons (learning to record music) recording session were youth can record their own music and take it home, video editing classes, digital design classes, and much more.

### Technology Centre

**Radio Booths – Program development** and avenues of use for the Radio Booths are being **investigated** along with funding options to fund the equipment.

**iMac Lab –** The iMac Lab has been rearranged to make way for the construction of a door into the iMac Room. Installation of the **new projector** and screen has been completed and is now ready for use by the staff.

**ReBuildIT- The ReBuildIT** program received its first **OES payment of \$560.99**. ReBuildIT anticipates another 12 skids being sent out, by the end of the month. ReBuildIT continues to receive e-waste material from the general public and have had a number of companies dropping off large donations. Most people find our drop off location through the Do What You Can website, <http://www.dowhatyoucan.ca/>, and word of mouth. We are continuing to prepare for an OES audit of our ReBuildIT program so that we can become an accredited Reuse/Refurbisher.

**Internet Café** – The Café continues to be a **popular** area in the YTLC.

**Gaming Zone** – We have chosen **new games** for the Gaming Zone and will be **installing** them in the near future.

**MultiMedia** – The Fusion Centre Staff is working on a **video** presentation for the **Olympic** visits at the local school. This will be a montage of previous Olympics and events. We have just completed the winter installment of the **Here In** magazine advertisements.

**Song Writing and Recoding nights-** Several youth have shown an interest in song writing and have been working with staff at Fusion to write songs and then record them. Several youth have already recorded their own personal Rap. Great things are happening in the recording studio.

## **Activity Centre**

**Girls group** – is now in full swing, the girls have been busy swimming, and playing Walleyball at Victoria Park Community Centre. In the upcoming weeks several public speakers are coming to Fusion to meet with the group to discuss various teen related issues. Every week 10-15 female youth participate in the girls group program.

**On November 24, 2009 the South London Resource Centre brought 10**, twelve year old youth to Fusion for a tour. The group of 10 youth and 2 staff purchased meals from the nutrition program and participated in the Art Breaks program.

**Fitness Program** – every Tuesday and Thursday 10-15 youth are participate in Kickboxing, circuit training and boot camp classes. Fusion staff member Brian Tschirchow who has completed his fitness instructor certification is the program facilitator. Pauline White who is a professional fitness trainer teaches each class and works the youth very hard.

**Art Program-** there has been some improvements to the art programs. Art programs are offered 4 days a week. Aaron Smith who is a professional art teacher has been hired to facilitate two new art programs – Art breaks which includes drawing/painting. Aaron has teamed up with staff member Aveleen Schinkel to run Art Factory, which averages approximately 15 youth on a weekly basis. **For the month of November the programs main focus was building a float for Ingersoll's Santa Claus Parade and decorating the Activity Centre for the holiday season.**

**Music** – with the new music equipment arriving (drums, guitars) the music room is the place to be. The room is booked full every night and music facilitator Aaron Turford is currently providing 15 -20 youth to music lessons. With the increasing demand of youth wanting to learn about music, Aaron is implementing group lessons that will provide the youth with knowledge of music. This will allow Aaron an opportunity to meet the high demand of youth who want to learn about music.

**Sports – the fall season has arrived and the gym scene is heating up.** Basketball and hockey season is in full swing. Youth trained very hard for the annual charity basketball against the O.P.P that was held on November 17, 2009. For almost three weeks straight every night youth were in the gym playing basketball. With the weather cooperating for the most part in November youth have enjoyed playing

road hockey under the lights out on the new paved parking lot. Each time there has been a road hockey game approximately 8-12 youth pick up a stick to play.

## **YEPP (Youth Entrepreneurial Partnership Program)**

**YEPP had its third Business Advisory Committee** meeting, in which we discussed the project's deliverables to date, as well as activities to be completed in the future. We had about 12 people out to the meeting and we got lots accomplished!

**The Interim Report for the program** is now completed and has been submitted to the Ministry and has been approved by them. If you would like a copy please let Jason or Nick know and we will get you a copy.

**Consultant hired-** We have hired a consultant now to complete the 4 Social Enterprise Business Plans for Fusion that will be complete by March 31 2009. The consultant will conduct feasibility studies, market research, focus groups, and provide a detailed sustainability plan to show the potential the Social Enterprises have to generate revenue for the centre.

**A survey will be distributed amongst the youth** to determine what career paths they hope to take, as well as what their current plans are with respect to post-secondary education.

**YEPP has is creating a full roster of workshops** to be hosted over the next year which will be posted upon Ministry approval. These workshops will happen and Fusion as well as in conjunction with IDCI.

**YEPP is currently recruiting business people** that are interested in mentoring youth, so if you know of anyone that would be interested please let us know.

In the month of November and December we had several Catering gigs that where all very successful, including the Town Christmas party. We are excited to see our catering social enterprise grow.

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## **4. Community Development and Events**

November 17, 2009 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fusion Vs O.P.P Charity basketball game – For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row Fusion youth and staff beat the O.P.P team quite easily. The Fusion youth played very well and scored a majority of the points for Fusion. The youth had a great time cannot wait until the next game.

November 19, 2009 – Moonlight Madness – Fusion youth and staff went downtown and barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers for the public to enjoy. Staff also hosted a road hockey pickup game for the youth to enjoy. Between 6:00pm – 8:30pm approximately 60 different youth participated in the hockey game. Fusion staff member Aaron Turford and Fusion youth Alex Minato setup up the sound system for the musical acts located at the Gazebo.

November 21, 2009 – Ingersoll Christmas Parade- for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row Fusion entered a float into the Santa Claus Parade. The youth participation was overwhelming, 28 youth was either on the float or walked beside the float.

December 14-18, 2009 – Olympic Torch Relay School Assemblies – To create excitement and awareness about the 2010 Winter Olympics and Olympic Torch relay Fusion staff are touring Ingersoll schools and providing students with some fun indoor and outdoor activities that promote sportsmanship and Olympic spirit.

December 17, 2009 – Christmas Dinner- The community is invited to Fusion for the annual Christmas dinner in the gymnasium.

December 27, 2009 – Olympic Torch Relay Events – From 11:00am – 5:00pm Fusion is hosting several events for youth in order to celebrate the Olympic Games. A 3-3 hockey tournament in the gym and a tug of war competition will help get everyone ready for the upcoming games.

Feb 26 -28, 2009 – Tim Horton's Camp - for the second year in a row Fusion was fortunate enough to be selected to visit the Tim Horton's camp in St. George Ontario. Approximately 50-60 youth will have the opportunity to go to the camp this year.

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## 5. Fusion Youth Centre Development

**Fusion Website** – The Fusion **website development** is underway. The **focus group** held in August helped choose the new **Fusion Logo** as well as the **webpage design**. The website content was sent off and the **projected launch** date for the website is scheduled for **mid November**, 2009. Response Generator in London has donated over \$30,000 in-kind to develop Fusion website, marketing and branding.

**Recording Studio** – Is in full swing and we have had a few recording contract so far generating revenue for the centre. On Monday nights we offer professional recording nights for youth to record their music and learn from a professional. We have two recording sound engineers now volunteering their time with this program.

The YEEP media event has been postponed until a later date, until we can get something figured out with the Ministry in terms of a good date and time. We will keep you posted.

The **PEIR project** which was funded through Health Canada and run by the Addiction Services of Thames Valley will be operating out of Fusion for the next two years. Abbie Boestard will be running the program.

**We continue to work with Conestoga College** to ensure they have access to our facility to offer College programs.

**Fast Forward has launched** once again at Fusion on Tuesday and Thursdays. This program started in September and is run by several community partners to offer young people an avenue to get interested in their education again. This terms program has been going extremely well.

**Fusion has been very busy with several tours a week.** Currently we are in talks with several other communities that are seriously looking at adapting the Fusion idea. 2 out of the 4 communities we are talking with are in the process of purchasing old schools.

We will be working with IDCI and offering several Co-op placements at Fusion in the new year. We look forward to this very exciting partnership with the local High School. Starting in January 2010 we will have 2-3 co-op placement students at the centre working with staff and the youth.

**An invitation has been sent to the Ministry of Education, Kathleen Wynne** and we are hoping to have her tour the facility in the near future to see how we might be able to partner with her Ministry. We will keep you posted on this progress. We have also send out 10 other invites to other ministers and wait to see if they choose to visit.

On **November 19, 2009** we had the opportunity to take 7 youth along with James, Bonnie and Jason to **Queens Park**. The Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth office paid for our hotel, limo ride to and from Toronto. Youth had an awesome time as we toured Queens Park, got our picture taken with Mayor Paul Holbrough, Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford and Irwin Elman, Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth and got to listen to the Legislature.

On **December 8, 2009** Irwin Elman, provincial Advocate for Children and Youth visited the Youth Centre for the second time. Irwin spent about 5 hours at the centre being involved in the Centre programs and seeing first hand the impact Fusion is having on Youth. We will be working closely with Irwin in developing provincial partnerships and working with his office on any potential funding opportunities or activities that Fusion can be part of.

Starting in **December 2009** the **Ingersoll Times** has offered give space for a **Youth Column** that will appear in the paper every month. This column will feature youth who will talk about Community activities, issues, news events and so on. This is a great way to give Youth a Voice in the community. Lindsay Vyse a staff at Fusion will be working with you prepare and write the article each month.

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## **6. Up coming meetings and dates to remember**

**December 14-18, 2009** – Olympic Torch Relay School Assemblies

**December 17, 2009** – Christmas Dinner- The community is invited to Fusion for the annual Christmas dinner in the gymnasium.

**December 27, 2009** – Olympic Torch Relay Events – From 11:00am – 5:00pm Fusion is hosting several events for youth in order to celebrate the Olympic Games. A 3-3 hockey tournament in the gym and a tug of war competition will help get everyone ready for the upcoming games.

**Feb 26 -28, 2009** – Tim Horton's Camp - for the second year in a row Fusion was fortunate enough to be selected to visit the Tim Horton's camp in St. George Ontario. Approximately 50-60 youth will have the opportunity to go to the camp this year.

**Neighborhood meetings** are hosted every month on the last Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is January 27, 2010 at 5pm at Fusion

**Youth Action Committee** meetings are hosted the second Tuesday of the month at Town hall. The next meeting is January 12, 2009 at 3:30pm

**BAC Meeting** meetings are the first Wednesday of the month hosted at Fusion at 8am. The next meeting is being held on January 13, 2010.