

**TOWN OF INGERSOLL
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
MONTHLY REPORT – MARCH 2010**

Report No. R-052-10

Approval Date: March 8, 2010

Mayor Holbrough & Members of Council:

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

CIB Meeting

Wednesday, March 24, 2010 – 7:00 pm

Recreational Trails Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 18, 2010 – 7:00 pm

J C Herbert Room – Town Offices

Oxford County Trails Council

Monday, April 5, 2010 – 1 pm – County Building

Thames River Clean Up

Saturday, April 17, 2010 – 9 am – 1 pm

Rain Date – Saturday, April 24, 2010

Volunteer Appreciation Night

Thursday, April 22, 2010 – 7 pm – 9 pm

Greetings from the Town of Ingersoll – 7:30 pm

2. RinC Project Implementation Status:
All RinC Agreements have been signed and sent to the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation for approvals.

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 Completed
- Equipment Quotation Received – February 26, 2010
- Quotation from Engineered Air – Reheat Module, Dehumidification Module, Remote Air Cooled Condenser Module - \$98,635 plus taxes
- Unit Start Up, Refrigerant, Non-Fused Disconnect Switches, Pool Water Piping, Control Wiring, Roof Sleepers, Unit Hanger Rods, Flue Venting, Placing of Condenser on Roof, Demolition of Existing Equipment, Wall Demolition and repair etc are not included in quotation price (equipment purchase only)
- Budget for Project - \$177,000
- Construction Date – April – June 2010

Fusion – Heating & Cooling Systems Upgraded & Replaced

- Drawings, Specification & Tender Documents Completed
- Tender Deadline - March 9th, 2010 – 10 am
- Construction Date – April – June 2010

3. 2010 Staff Work Projects:

- 2010 Operating Budgets
- Municipal Performance Measurement Report
- March Break Day Camps
- Volunteer Appreciation Night – Thursday, April 22, 2010
- CIB – Thames River Clean Up – Saturday, April 24, 2010
- Parks & Fusion – BIA Ribfest – Margarittaville – Thurs. June 17, 2010
- Trails Day – Great Trails Quest – Saturday, June 17, 2010
- CIB Dinner/Dance Under the Stars – Saturday, June 17, 2010
- Here In Ingersoll Magazine – Spring Edition
- Tourism Ingersoll Committee – 2010 Visitor Guide
- Community Strategic Plan Implementation – Recreation, Leisure & Sports
- Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) Program – Project Implementation
- Fusion – Washroom Renovations
- Fusion – Radio Booth Equipment & Operation
- Fusion Business/Strategic Plan
- Fusion – YEPP Business Plans
- Health & Safety Policies, Procedures & Training – After Hours Employees Working Alone

4. Once again the Department is offering “March Break Day Camps” for children 3 to 12 years. The week is filled with exciting activities such as swimming, ice skating, bowling, tobogganing, movies and pizza parties.

Public Skating during March Break will be offered for a “Loonie” and will operate Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 2 – 3:30 pm. Due to a special ice booking Public Skating on Thursday will be 3:30 pm – 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ward, Director
Parks & Recreation Department

Fusion Youth Activity & Technology Centre
September/October 2009 Council Report
Wednesday November 4, 2009

1. Facility Update

Skate Park – is closed for the winter months

Fusion Bathrooms Renovation: through a grant that we recently received we are now planning to have our bathroom completely renovated in April. Drawings have just been done for the bathrooms and we will be getting the tender documents together in the next couple of weeks. This will see the replacement of all toilets, sinks, flooring, plumbing, and washroom stalls.

No other facility updates or improvements are in the works.

2. Funding Update

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 15 recycling bins in our downtown and parks. Thanks to John Philips help the bins are ordered and are awaiting there arrive shortly.

Accessibility Grant Funding- was approved in the amount of \$25,000 for Fusion, which will see the 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!

Received \$50,000 from Oxford Small Business Support Centre to install and purchase all the equipments for our new radio broadcast program. The installation of a high tech speaker system will be installed through out Fusion in the coming month. This installation will allow youth to broadcast live through the Youth Centre as well as on our website.

Received \$5,000 from Oxford Small Business Support to develop marketing materials. We are not in the process of developing those materials and sending them to print. Items include, brochures, trade show booth, banner stands, postcards, pens and so on.

Received \$10,000 from Oxford Small Business Support to develop a 3-5 year business plan for the Fusion Youth Centre. The consultant was hired through a RFP process and has started work on the business plans. Several focus groups will be held over the next two months. Report will be finalized in March and will be presented to Council in May or June.

We have submitted a letter to the United Way of Oxford requesting ongoing funding each year and to become a member agency of the United Way, which they reviewed and recommended for us to fill out an application. We will be going through the citizen review panned and should hear back from United Way at the end of March about our application status.

Submitted a RBC After School grant this past month for \$40,000 that would go toward ongoing operating of the Youth Centre and our programs.

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.

3. Fusion Programs

Check out the New “Here in Ingersoll” Magazine. We have lots of winter/spring programming happening. Launching in mid February 2010 we will now be offering Rebuilt IT 4 days per week, , 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, song writing, art studio clases and much more.

Technology Centre

Radio Booths – Fusion Youth Centre **received** a **\$50,000.00 grant** from the Oxford Small Business Support Centre. The Radio Booths are under way. We have chosen The Stereo Man to install a distributed audio system that will be connected to the Radio Booths. All the equipment and software have been purchased and we are waiting for its arrival. The completion date for this project is projected to be March 31, 2010

iMac Lab – Staff on a on going basis run several multi-media type programs out of the media studio including photography, graphic design, video production and more. Staff and youth are currently working on a promotional video for Ontario Refrigeration Services in Ingersoll.

Recycling program- We are continuing with OES pickups for the Recycling program. We received another payment of \$448.00 for the latest shipment. The ReCycleIT is continuing to receive e-waste material from the community. We just received 39 servers from Cami. The Fusion Youth Centre had submitted a proposal to the County of Oxford to run their E-Waste Special Event Days throughout the County of Oxford and was not successful in the bid for this contract. We are currently in talks with GreenTec about expanding our ReCycleIT program and bringing on a couple new regional partners to expand the revenue potential for our Recycling program.

Gaming Zone – New games have been purchased for the Gaming Zone: Company of Heroes; Tales of Valour, Portal, Half Life Two, Team Fortress and Battlefield 1942. They are currently being installed by the Ingersoll IT department.

MultiMedia – The Fusion Centre Staff is continuing to work on a **Skate Board safety video**. This video is part of the **Active 2000 Grant**. The Fusion Staff also **completed** an **Anti-racism** video that has been entered into a nationwide contest. This 30 second spot called **“Erase-ism”** features youth and staff with **original music** created and **recorded** in the **Recording Studio**. The Erase-ism video was chosen as one of 53 finalists to be aired on YouTube. The winner will be announced on March 21, the United Nations International Day against Racism, in Ottawa

ReBuildIT- is still going strong. The ReBuildIT room is open Monday to Thursday with youth at the centre building computers and recycling. There are several youth a night involved in the program.

Activity Centre

Girls group – was launched in early February with the girls made candy shish kobobs to sell to raise money for trips and special programming.

Fitness Program – every Tuesday and Thursday 10-15 youth are participate in Kickboxing, circuit training and boot camp classes. Fusion staff member Brian Tschirnow 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. This program is seeing great numbers and youth are very excited about this program.

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 facilitates 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 in each class.

Recently we had a couple of visitors from Mars visit the centre, a purple and green dotted alien brought greetings to the Fusion Youth Centre in some form of foreign language. We gave them a tour of the centre and a Fusion shirt each and sent him on there way. We can now say Fusion is on another planet.

Music – **Aaron Turford** is **back** from his leave at the beginning of **February** and the youth are very excited. **Dylan Godick** is a volunteer and graduate of OIART in London is running our **Open Recording Night** and mixing programs. Our new full time staff member **Karim** is running **Melodyne, Reason** and **music writing** classes to youth. **All** programs are well **attended** and there is always a **waiting list** for youth recording time in **The Studio**.

Sports – the winter season has arrived and the gym scene is heating up. Basketball, soccer and hockey season is in full swing and the gym has approximately 25 youth participating in different sports on a nightly basis.

YEPP (Youth Entrepreneurial Partnership Program)

YEPP has continued to host a monthly **Business Advisory Committee** meeting, in which we discuss the project's deliverables to date, as well as activities to be completed in the future. This group is continuing to grow and we now have a total of 15 members

Norwich Career Fair and Community Trade Show – Fusion was showcasing the activities/programs that are offered to youth to approximately 11500 students ranging from grades 7-12. Nick was at the tradeshow on February 25, 2010 and it was a huge hit.

A partnership has been formed with the **Woodstock and Area Small Business Enterprise Centre**. They have helped introduce our youth to a government funded program titled **The Summer Company Program**. This program allows youth to submit a business plan to the provincial government in hopes of securing a \$3000 grant to start a small business over the course of the summer. Fusion has three youth at this time creating a business plan with the hope of being selected.

A consultant has been hired to create business plans and a marketing strategy for each of our four social enterprises to assist with additional revenue sources for Fusion. The goal of this plan is to achieve financial sustainability as well as outline the two social enterprises with the most potential for our purposes. This will allow us to structure our time and resources around these two enterprises in order to maximize these business opportunities. Consultant fees are paid by the grant we received from the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade.

We have completed five of nine workshops sessions. We will continue to host entrepreneurial themed workshops on almost a weekly rate until the end of March. Workshop themes will include; business planning, marketing, financial planning, goal setting, time management, customer service, business leadership and communication skills.

Fusion Food Services catered the Biz After Five Event and Open House. This was a glowing success and helped to introduce the local business community to our catering business. The food was spectacular and our youth did a wonderful job in helping to prepare and serve the refreshments.

We currently have a group of **four youth who are in the process of creating a business plan for their Bike/Skate Shop.** This project is going along nicely and we are meeting twice a week in order to hopefully have this business up and running for the springtime.

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.

A Biz After Five Event and Open House was held at Fusion with the focus being placed on the YEP program. Local businesses were able learn about the program from youth who have participated in the program. The youth really enjoyed explaining different projects they were apart of and had a great time getting to know some of the local community members.

4. Community Development and Events

February 5, 6, 2010 – Winterfest – On Friday February 5, 2010 drop in and enjoy Karaoke at 7:00pm in the lounge. February 6, 2010 – Outdoor road hockey game (4:00pm) - No registration required(ages 12- 18) 7:00pm – Movie “Cool Running’s” starring John Candy. It is an Olympic Classic! the movie will be played on the large projector

Health Kits for Haiti – Fusion staff Aveleen Schinkel returned from Haiti two weeks ago and was able to help young children at some local orphanages. Aveleen was able to transport 50 health kits in her luggage and physically handed them out to young children. The remaining 270 health kits that were made were given to the Mennonite Central Committee so they could transport the kits to Haiti.

February 26-28, 2010 – Tim Horton’s Camp – 36 youth just returned from the Tim Horton’s Camp accompanied by 6 Fusion staff. The youth had the opportunity to play Broomball, play hockey, look at the solar system through a massive telescope in there observatory. The Camp provided the youth a rare opportunity to leave the Ingersoll area and experience new activities.

5. Fusion Youth Centre Development

Fusion Website – The Fusion **website development** is ongoing. We will begin the testing stage shortly with limited staff being able to access the website and test links and options. The **expected** launch date is end of **March** however that keeps getting changes, so keep your fingers crossed it will happen this time. Response Generators in London has donated over \$30,000 in-kind to develop Fusion website, marketing and branding.

Recording Studio – We are still accepting **bookings** for outside groups to use **The Studio for recording** session to help generate revenue for the centre. On Monday nights we offer professional recording nights for youth to record their music and lean from a professional. We are also offering ProTool mixing program for youth on Tuesday nights. We have two recording sound engineers now volunteering their time with this program. The Studio still proves to be one of the busiest rooms in the building.

Now that school will be back in, we plan to host **Principal meetings at Fusion once a month** that will invite all area principals to Fusion to discuss youth programming and issues and how we can work together. We also plan to be in the schools to advertise our programs and centre.

Fast Forward has received funding again and will be starting the program for the 2 session the first week of February. 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.

Fusion has been very busy with several tours a week. Currently we are in talks with 6 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. Recently a presentation was made to the City of Port Colborne. Several other speaking engagements are setup for the next couple of months talking to other communities about Fusion.

We will be working with IDCI and offering several Co-op placements at Fusion. We look forward to this very exciting partnership with the local High School.

6. Up coming meetings and dates to remember

Neighbourhood meetings are hosted every month on the last Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is March 24, 2010 at 5pm at Fusion.

Operation Sharing - Coffee Break Meeting the last Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am in the art Room.

Youth Action Committee meetings are hosted the third Tuesday of the month at Town hall. The next meeting is March 9 2010 at 3:00pm and April 13 2010 at 3pm

BAC Meeting meetings are the first Wednesday of the month hosted at Fusion at 8am. Our next meeting will be held on April 7, 2010 at 8:00pm held at Fusion.

Community Open House –Youth and parents are encouraged to attend the open house as there will be tours, displays and staff available to answer any questions that parents may have regarding the Fusion Centre. The open house will be on February 25, 2010 starting at 2:30pm – 4:30pm.

Fast Forward Program – Starting up again on February 22, 2010 (Monday's & Friday's)