

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

*Report No. R-159/-09
Approval Date: November 9, 2009*

Mayor Holbrough & Members of Council:

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

WinterLights Meeting

Wednesday, November , 2009 – 5:00 pm
J C Herbert Room

MoonLight Madness & Lighting of the Lights

Thursday, November 19, 2009 – 5 pm to 11 pm
Special Lighting Ceremony – 7 pm

Grand Opening of Santa’s Festival Village

Friday, November 20, 2009 – 6pm to 9 pm
Bandaloni “The One Man Band Show” – 6 pm
Fireworks & Lighting Ceremony – 7pm

CIB Meeting

Wednesday, November 4, 2009 – 7:00 pm

Recreational Trails Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 26, 2009 – 7:00 pm
J C Herbert Room – Town Offices

Fusion Neighbourhood Meeting

Wednesday, November 25, 2009 - 5:00 pm – Fusion Board Room

Olympic Torch Relay Planning Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 24, 2009 – 9 am – JC Herbert Room

Arts Ingersoll

Wednesday, November 25, 2009 – 7 pm – JC Herbert Room

Bringing the Olympic Flame to Ingersoll

Sunday, December 27, 2009
Community Torch Relay Ceremony – 9:30 am – Town Hall

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 In Progress

3. Saff Work Projects:
 - 2010 Operating Budgets
 - Moonlight Madness & Festival of Lights – Special Lighting Ceremony
 - Santa's Festival Village & Festival of Lights
 - WinterLights Celebrations
 - Building Healthy Communities Workshop
 - Tourism Ingersoll Committee – Visitor Guide
 - Community Strategic Plan Implementation – Recreation, Leisure & Sports
 - Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) Program – Project Implementation
 - Town Employee Policy Manual Review
 - Here in Ingersoll – Winter Edition – Distribution – Nov. 16th, 2009
 - Health & Safety Policies, Procedures & Training
 - Emergency Management Committee Training – Emergency Reception Centres/Shelters – November 20, 2009
 - Development of Community Gardens Policy
 - 2010 Olympic Torch Relay – Sunday, December 27, 2009
 - Accessibility Committee Policy Development – Customer Service

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 – going very well with only needing a few minor repairs to the park. Several professional BMX bikers have attended the skate park and shot some video footage. We are currently averaging approximately 40 – 45 youth each day in the Skate Park. On August 15, 2009 a skate board and bike competition was held and 56 youth participated in the event with 150-200 spectators. The Skate Park gets used by all ages, even as young as 3 years old!

Fusion Parking lot – The work on the parking lot is complete and has provided a much need facelift. Lights, the new walk-way, some landscaping,

Boardroom – The Boardroom has officially been moved to the space previously occupied by OYAA.

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 Bathrooms 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.

2. Funding Update

This month we **received \$4,300 from the United Way employee campaign** that was designated specifically for Fusion Youth Centre. This was a great surprise for us as this was revenue that was not projected in our budget.

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 \$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!

Other grants are ongoing for the continual develop of Fusion and its programs on an ongoing basis. Our focus is on wiring 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 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 – Construction is now complete on the Radio Booths. We are now working on a grant that would fund the radio booth equipment and a speaker system throughout the centre for youth to run a Fusion Radio program that would broadcast with in the Centre.

iMac Lab – Staff on a on going basis run several multi-media type programs out of the media studio.

Recycling program- has made its first pickup by OES. We had 12 skids of end of life electronics that were picked up two weeks ago. We should receive our **first payment by mid November**. ReBuildIT has been receiving e-waste material from the general public and have had a number of companies dropping off large donations. We have also been contacted by other **Municipalities** in Oxford County regarding **large pick ups**. We are continuing to prepare for an OES audit of our ReBuildIT program so that we can become an accredited Reuse/Refurbisher. This is a lengthy process and will take us some time to complete.

Fusion has received **approval as a Community Microsoft Authorized Refurbished (Community MAR)**. This allows us to purchase Microsoft the CP Home operating system and Office 2003 standard at a cost of \$6.00 per license. We can then resell refurbished systems with these programs installed.

Gaming Zone – We are currently working on **developing** some **partnerships** with local **gaming stores** to supply us with **new games** and use the Gaming Zone for **tournaments and promotions** that would see us receiving free computer games on a ongoing basis.

MultiMedia – The Fusion Centre Staff is continuing to work on a **Skate Board safety video**. This video is part of the **Active 2000 Grant**. We have just completed the latest installment of the **Here In** magazine advertisements.

Rebuilt IT- is hotter then ever with Drew Austin being hired to work 5 days a week with youth at the centre building computers and recycling. Drew has been hired on a grant which pays for his full wages for 6 months. With the re-build IT room being open now we have seen a huge increase in youth. We even now have female youth participating in the program!

Activity Centre

Girls group – has started up again and the past 4-6 weeks the groups focus was on the Haunted Jail House. Girls Group assisted with decorating the facility, volunteering in the kids zone and a few even acted in the Haunted Jail House. 10 – 15 youth participate in Girls group each week.

Fitness Program – every Tuesday and Thursday 10-15 youth are participate in Kickboxing, circuit training and boot camp classes. Fusion staff member Brian Tschirrow 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 on a weekly basis.

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 music lessons on a weekly basis. 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. We have also recently hired a part time staff who will be teach youth songwriting, Hip Hop and RNB music.

Sports – the fall season has arrived and the gym scene is heating up. Basketball and hockey season is in full swing. Youth are training hard to prepare for upcoming charity basketball game against the O.P.P on November 17, 2009. 10- 15 youth will be training on a daily basis to ensure the O.P.P do not win the game this year.

YEPP (Youth Entrepreneurial Partnership Program)

YEPP had its second 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 8 people out to the meeting

The Interim Report for the program is almost complete, which details work completed to date, following six months as Coordinator. This report when complete will be handed to funders, the ministry and council.

Further market research will happen in regards to the catering business and a survey will be sent around to garner more feedback from the local community. This information will be used to strengthen the findings included in the Food Services Business Plan.

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 created 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.

A group of four youth from the skatepark have been working together over the next several weeks to **develop a business plan for a skateshop**, which will be youth lead and driven. Having a YEPP coordinator on staff will now allow youth who want to start their own business or get involved in Fusion's 4 social enterprises.

A business plan for Fusion Food Services is complete; Jason, Jan, Karrie and youth will be working together to ensure that it is being implemented over the next several months. The marketing survey has yielded several very positive responses.

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 are booked for **several large catering gigs throughout the community**. We are excited to see our catering social enterprise grow.

4. Community Development and Events

August 30, 2009 Harvest Run – For the third year in a row Fusion will be volunteering at the Harvest Run. There was a great turn out and lots of money raised. We are being presented the cheque at the Basketball game on November 17.

August 31, 2009 So You Think You Can Cook Barbecue Competition – 5 aspiring youth chefs competed against each other for the top youth chef job at Fusion. Youth cooked off against each other and cooked up a storm. Youth Corey Ackert won the competition and is now in charge of the Nutrition program 5 days per week.

October 9, 2009 – 4th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner – The community was invited to Fusion's annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Approximately 65 youth enjoyed a friendly meal in the gymnasium free of charge.

October 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31, 2009 – 4th Annual Haunted House – Fusion hosted the Annual Haunted House which was our most successful year yet. This year's theme was a Haunted Jail House. Approximately 50-75 different youth volunteered their time to volunteer to create build and act in the Haunted Jail House. We brought in roughly \$4,000 and after expenses made about \$1,500. We had around 1000 individuals through that Haunted House. We look forward to next year to make it even bigger and better.

November 17, 2009 – 3rd Annual Fusion Vs O.P.P Charity basketball game – For the 3rd year in a row Fusion youth and staff are attempting to beat Ingersoll's O.P.P detachment in a charity basketball game. Each year the game is held at I.D.C.I. Admission is \$2.00 with processed going to operation sharing.

November 19, 2009 – Moonlight Madness – Fusion will be barbecuing hot dogs and hamburgers downtown for eager shoppers. A road hockey game will be hosted by Fusion for youth in the downtown area as well. This year Fusion will not be the one responsible for the Tree not lighting up!

November 21, 2009 – Ingersoll Christmas Parade- for the 4th year in a row Fusion will be entering a float in the Christmas parade in conjunction with CAW Local 88. This year we are requesting that the Ingersoll Community bring new and unwrapped toy to the parade and place them on our float. All toys will be donated to the Ingersoll and District Interchurch "Christmas Hamper Program".

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.

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 – October saw the **grand opening celebration of The Studio**. The Ontario Trillium Foundation, Heart FM and the Young Musician Scholarship winners as well as Town Council members, the Mayor and The MPP for Oxford County were in attendance with more then 50 others. We are currently **booking** 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 have two recording sound engineers now volunteering there time with this program.

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.

We are just planning the **official launch of the YEPP program** for the second or third week in October. We are just waiting on confirmation from the Ministry that they can be at the launch. Currently the date is booked tentatively for December 3 2009.

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.

Fusion has been very busy with several tours a week. Currently we are in talks with 3-4 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. They paid for us to travel and present to them. Several communities are looking at the Fusion model for their community.

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.

On October 28, 2009 Jason, Aaron and two youth from the centre spoke at a **conference at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.** We had an opportunity to network with over 250 and speak at a afternoon workshop on our Fusion program. We had great response from those in attendance. The conference was focused on Music programming and Fusion was featured at the conference.

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.

On Wednesday October 7 2009 we had the opportunity to **Tour Irwin Elman, Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth.** We have also been requested by him to come and speak at the Legislator on November 19 and speak to the MPPs about Fusion and what we offer. Irwin also requested that youth would be there to present as well. We are also one of 19 communities in the Province that will be part of a huge mural that is being hung at Queens Park. Youth at the Centre made a collogue of different places and people in Ingersoll to best represent what happens in Ingersoll.

6. Up coming meetings and dates to remember

Neighbourhood meetings are hosted every month on the last Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is November 25, 2009 at 5pm at Fusion

Youth Action Committee meetings are hosted the third Tuesday of the month at Town hall. The next meeting is November 17, 2009 at 3:30pm

BAC Meeting meetings are the first Wednesday of the month hosted at Fusion at 8am. Our next meeting will be December 2, 2009

Tentative date for the YEPP program launch (waiting on confirmation from the Minister's office) for December 3, 2009 at 3:30pm. We will send out the confirmed date when we have it.