



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO BUDGET COMMITTEE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Wednesday, January 9, 2013
7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor
150 Frederick Street, Kitchener

*Denotes Item(s) Not Part of Original Agenda

**1. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER THE MUNICIPAL
CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT**

2. DELEGATIONS

- *a) Irene Thurston, Friends of the McDougall Cottage, Bob McLean, Musician in Residence and Robin Aggus, Piper, Re: McDougall Cottage Funding
- b) Harald Drewitz, Citizen's Tax Watch Centre, Re: Budget
- c) Bill Tufts, Fair Pensions for All, Re: Fair Pensions for All
- d) David Marskell and Murray Gamble, THEMUSEUM, Re: Update and Funding
- *e) Isabella Stefanescu, Region of Waterloo Arts Fund, Re: Funding
- * f) Kate Daley, Resident, Re: Transit
- g) Genevieve Twomey, KW Symphony, Re: Funding for Arts
- h) Jeffrey Beckner, Resident, Re: Sidewalks on Regional Roads
- i) Grand Philharmonic Choir, Re: Funding for Arts
- * j) Kae Elgie, resident, Re: Cultural Heritage Spending
- *k) Duncan Clemens, TriTAG, Re: Grand River Transit
- *l) Ben Tucci, Cambridge Ward 4 Councillor, Re: Proposed Cuts to McDougall Cottage

3. INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE

- a) [Letter from Sharron Chandler](#) dated December 13, 2012 Re: Funding for McDougall Cottage

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- b) [Letter from Poverty Free Waterloo](#) Region dated January 3, 2013 Re: Ontario Works Discretionary Benefits and Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit 3
- *c) Approximately 464 postcards received from individuals each addressed to individual Councillors Re: Funding for McDougall Cottage
(List available for viewing in the Regional Clerk's Office)
- *d) [Letter from Brad McEwen](#) received January 7, 2012 Re: Funding for McDougall Cottage 5
- 4. ADJOURN**

From: Sharron Chandler
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2012 11:09 AM
To: Todd Cowan - Region
Subject: Budget Discussions - cuts to McDougall Cottage

Dear Mr. Cowan,

I write to you, for the first time, to direct your attention to the drastic 55% budget cut to the operating budget for McDougall Cottage and wish to point out to you that I feel this is direct opposition to the Budget Reduction Options as posted on the Region site. The general principals include:

- 1 Minimize the impact on the community and the organization;
- 2 Balance the reductions between the various Regional programs; and
- 3 Remain consistent with the objectives of the Region's Strategic Plan.

I propose to you that the reduction to McDougall Cottage fails to meet all 3 of the posted criteria and will drastically affect the programs at the Region's only museum/historic house in Cambridge as per the following:

1. The fact that the \$80,000 reduction in the operating budget for McDougall cottage represents a 55% reduction and will drastically impact on programming (see details below).
2. The proposed cut to the Waterloo Region Museum's budget is less than 1% while Joseph Schneider Haus's operating budget has been cut by 2.5%. All these institutions are valuable to the cultural integrity of the Region and all need to be supported but balance is the key; I propose there is no balance between the percentage cuts with similar cultural organizations.
3. The Cottage remains consistent with the Region's Strategic Plan.

The following outlines some of the changes that will be forced on the Cottage if the proposed cuts are implemented.

1. Yes, the Cottage is open Wednesday to Sunday but only half days. And it should be noted that ½ of the traffic to the Cottage comes from walk-ins. Cuts to the budget would mean that regular hours will be discontinued in 2013.
2. As you read down the column of cuts, the description reads with words like “reduce”, “cancel”, “discontinue” “eliminate” and McDougall Cottage description is stated “open for special events” but this would be impossible without the preliminary research work that takes place during the open hours.
3. Levels of service of all types will be dramatically reduced as well as public access to services. During open hours staff host visits, touring guests around the Cottage and gardens along with answering inquiries, assisting with personal research projects and providing visitors to Cambridge with information that will enhance their visit.
4. The current level of event presentations will have to be greatly reduced and pre-registered events will not be possible.
5. The facility will cease to operate as a museum and curatorial functions will not be possible.

6. The care and conservation of historic property will all but cease putting the heritage resource at major risk. It will not be possible to properly monitor the building and for the building to solely become a performance venue is not an appropriate use for a heritage building.
7. Research functions will be discontinued. Functions like the successful Spirit Walk this Halloween would be impossible without the research component. While 1 night was planned this year, to accommodate the demand an additional session was added which still left people on the waiting list.
8. School classes will no longer be booked for curriculum-based programmes. In addition to school programmes these cuts would eliminate the design and craft activity enjoyed through the Kids in Kilts programming.
9. The Musician-in-Residence program, sponsored by The Friends of McDougall Cottage will be adversely affected including its outreach initiatives.

I understand that we all must do our part when looking at cuts to the Region's budget but I respectfully request that you re-visit the proposed cuts so that we don't lose the valuable programming that McDougall Cottage provides to the resident of the Region and Cambridge.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharron Chandler

Cambridge, Ontario

January 3, 2013

Regional Council
150 Frederick Street
Kitchener, Ontario
N2G 4J3



c/o Mennonite Central Committee Ontario
50 Kent Ave., Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1

Re: 2013 Budget

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Budget Committee,

We are writing to you as a group of health and social service providers and anti-poverty advocates working in the Waterloo Region who have found consensus regarding the provision of funds for the needs of the people we serve.

As you know, our Provincial Government has made some significant changes to the way supports for people receiving Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Payments (ODSP) Benefits are funded and delivered in our Province.

Of particular note are the cancellation of the Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) and the capping of cost shared expenditures for Discretionary Benefits. Recently, as a result of advocacy from municipalities across the province, our provincial government announced transitional funding for municipalities particularly affected by the cuts to CSUMB. The Region of Waterloo will receive a grant of \$1.5M in 2013 while plans for the implementation of the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) are developed. This is excellent news!

However, even with the one-time grant, the **Region of Waterloo is still left with a shortfall of at least \$4.5M** for supports to protect the region's most vulnerable citizens. Furthermore, the grant is meant to assist in the transition from CSUMB to CHPI and does not cover any of the shortfall in funding for discretionary benefits.

In the Waterloo Region, discretionary benefits have been used to provide emergency food, to provide emergency health care, and to provide last resort support for people to meet their basic needs. We believe that any cuts in the funding of discretionary benefits will be detrimental to our community.

Allowing basic needs to go unmet is in direct contrast to the Region's strategic vision of creating an inclusive and thriving community that maintains and fosters opportunities for current and future generations.

We understand that the funding shortfall is not of your making. We believe, however, that Council can help to dampen the hardship felt by our community by committing \$2.5 million in additional permanent funding for discretionary benefits to fill some of the gap left when the province capped cost shared spending for this benefit. This funding would go a long way in reducing hardship, decreasing future expenditures in other areas and bolstering the innovative programs developed in Waterloo Region with support from this benefit.

Regional Council has a long history of forward thinking, innovation and compassion when it comes to our most vulnerable citizens. As we move through this process of transition and funding changes for financial support programs, we encourage you to continue that tradition. Be innovative and work with the community sector and broader community to do what's necessary to maintain a vibrant and inclusive Waterloo Region.

On behalf of all endorsers,

Kaylie Tiessen

Advocacy Associate, Mennonite Central Committee Ontario

Endorsed by:

Anne Tinker, Executive Director – Cambridge Shelter Corporation

Bil Smith, Executive Director – The Independent Living Centre of Waterloo Region

Charles Nichols, Chair – Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group

Connie Lacey, Co-ordinator - Children's Needs Distribution Centre

Dorothy Hobbs, Member - K-W Fibromyalgia Support Group

Elizabeth Clarke, Chief Executive Officer – YWCA Kitchener Waterloo

Eric Goldberg, Executive Director – Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre

Gael Gilbert, Executive Director – Supportive Housing of Waterloo

Gay Slinger, Staff Lawyer - Waterloo Region Community Legal Services

Harry Whyte, CEO - Ray of Hope

Joan Nandlal, Executive Director – John Howard Society of Waterloo-Wellington

Linda Terry, Executive Director - Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries

Laura Becotte, Home at Last Coordinator — Community Care Concepts

Laurie Turcotte, Housing Administrator – K-W Urban Native Wigwam Project

Marianne Irvine, ALIV(e) Member – ALIV(e)

Mary MacKeigan, Executive Director – Opportunities Waterloo Region

Melissa Dunbar, Facilitator – Cambridge Action on Homelessness Group

Michael Hackbusch, Chaplaincy Director – House of Friendship

Sandy Dietrich-Bell, Executive Director – ROOF

Sara Casselman, Public Relations & Operations Manager–Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region

Tony Lea, Executive Director - St. John Ambulance

Trudy Beaulne, Executive Director – Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo

Wendy Czarny, Executive Director – Waterloo Regional Homes for Mental Health

McDougall Cottage: UnKind Cuts

Regional Councillors, my name is Brad McEwen and I reside at 34 Oak Street in the Galt area of the City of Cambridge.

In addition to being the Past Chair of the Friends of McDougall Cottage, I have served on numerous City of Cambridge Advisory Committees such as those for Arts & Culture and for the Cambridge Farmers Market. For the last twenty years, I have been the volunteer Director of the Mill Race Folk Society.

I have been honoured with numerous awards for my contributions to my community such as the Waterloo Regional Arts Award, the Laurier Centre for Music in the Community, the Cambridge Cultural Award, an honorary Paul Harris Fellowship from Rotary International and lastly, The Queen Elizabeth 11 Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Now that I am finished blowing my own trumpet, I would like to say that I am appalled by Regional staff's proposal to make a devastating 55% reduction to the budget of McDougall Cottage historic site on Grand Ave. South in Cambridge.

This wonderful facility is well supported by people from all over the Region and beyond. In collaborating with the Curator, the Mill Race Folk Society has presented numerous concerts by professional touring performers from the British Isles.

The emphasis on things Scottish is very much appropriate in a community founded by settlers from Argyll and Dumfries almost 200 years ago. Indeed, I am of Scots/Irish ancestry and my family has lived in Galt for five generations. No other facility in the Region celebrates the culture and history of our founders in this way. The events held at McDougall Cottage have been a very welcome addition to the cultural life of Cambridge.

It seems more than a little unfair that Kitchener-Waterloo museum facilities will only suffer a budget reduction of 1% while the only regionally owned and operate historic site in Cambridge will be subjected to a massive 55% cut that will, for all intents and purposes, essentially close the Cottage down. With the construction of the new performing arts theatre on Grand Ave, this area of Galt is poised to become a cultural hub. It makes no sense whatsoever to implement this drastic proposal.

One can understand fiscal restraint in these economic times, but this proposal is both unfair and appears discriminatory. I sincerely urge Regional council to reject this proposal out of hand and to allow McDougall Cottage to operate with a more reasonable budget so that it can continue to be such an important part of our community's cultural life.

Brad McEwen