REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011
9:17 a.m.
Regional Council Chamber
150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario

Present were: Chair S. Strickland, L. Armstrong, J. Brewer, T. Cowan, D. Craig, R. Deutschmann*, T. Galloway, J. Haalboom, B. Halloran, R. Kelterborn, G. Lorentz, C. Millar, J. Mitchell, K. Seiling, J. Wideman and C. Zehr

MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

MOVED by T. Cowan
SECONDED by J. Wideman

THAT a closed meeting of the Community Services Committee be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 8:45 a.m., in the Waterloo County Room, in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, for the purposes of considering the following subject matters:

a) receiving of legal advice and opinion that is subject to solicitor-client privilege related to authority to enact by-laws
b) personal matters about identifiable individuals – committee appointments
c) personal matters about identifiable individuals – committee appointments
d) personal matters about identifiable individuals – committee appointments

CARRIED

MOTION TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

MOVED by L. Armstrong
SECONDED by B. Halloran

THAT the meeting reconvene into Open session.

CARRIED

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER THE MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

None declared

PRESENTATIONS

a) Susan Whelan, Executive Director, rare Charitable Research Reserve addressed the Committee regarding the 10th anniversary of the organization; a copy of the presentation is appended to the original minutes.
Rob Horne, Commissioner, Planning, Housing and Community Services, introduced the guests and made brief comments about Region of Waterloo funding support, as well as the inclusion of Regional support for the organization in the Corporate Strategic Plan.

S. Whelan summarized the mandate and objectives of the organization; the benefits to the community, the primary objectives and details of the current transformation projects. She responded to Committee questions regarding overall and operating budget, funding sources, and partnership development. She encouraged attendance at the 10th anniversary celebration planned for today.

**INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE**

b) Memo: *rare* Charitable Research Reserve – Background and Delegation

Received for information

**PRESENTATIONS (Continued)**

b) Mary MacKeigan, Executive Director, Opportunities Waterloo Region gave a presentation to the Committee regarding Organizational Update; a copy is appended to the original minutes. Her presentation included an overview of the programs the organization is involved in, the local funding sources, free tax clinic services, a summary of projects and partnerships, research ventures, as well, as the organization’s evolving structure. She stated that the organization will move forward with a strategic planning process if they receive the requested funding from the Region. She responded to Committee questions regarding community tax clinics and the general facilitation of community programs.

f) SS-11-050, Opportunities Waterloo Region Assessment

MOVED by J. Brewer
SECONDED by T. Galloway

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo receive the report “Opportunities Waterloo Region Assessment” and refer Report SS-11-050, dated December 6, 2011 to the budget process for consideration.

CARRIED

**REPORTS – Planning, Housing and Community Services**

c) P-11-098, Doors Open Waterloo Region 2011 – A Record Attendance Year

R. Horne made brief comments about the attendance, the volunteer support and the Region’s financial support of the annual cultural event.

Received for information

d) CR-RS-11-086/P-11-099, Proposed Merger of Making Room Community Support for the Homeless and Cambridge Shelter Corporation

MOVED by T. Galloway
SECONDED by J. Wideman
THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo consent to the amalgamation of Making Room Community Support for the Homeless with Cambridge Shelter Corporation, as described in Report CR-RS-11-086/P-11-099;

AND THAT the Commissioner of Planning, Housing and Community Services and the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to execute such documentation to provide for the assumption and transfer of liabilities from MRCSH to CSC as may be required with the form and content of such documentation to be satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor.

CARRIED

The Committee commended staff for the organization of the recently hosted National Housing Day event, where media support enhanced the recognition of what is being done locally to assist people in need of affordable housing.

REPORTS – Public Health

a) PH-11-051, Waterloo Region Infectious Disease Status Report: 2006-2010

Dr. Liana Nolan, Commissioner/Medical Officer of Health, made introductory comments. Asma Razzaq, Epidemiologist, Epidemiology & Health Analytics, provided an overview of the report. She responded to Committee inquires regarding the health connections associated with rural wells, the inspections and licensing of tattoo establishments, and the statistics related to the cases of influenza.

Received for information

b) PH-11-052/CR-CLK-11-020, Shark Fin Products

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Associate Medical Officer of Health, gave introductory comments and advised that staff doesn’t recommend a by-law, given the enforcement and financial challenges.

Committee members provided comments about their concerns with enforcing a by-law for an issue which they have no legal jurisdiction. J. Mitchell requested that a copy of the report be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and S. Strickland requested that a copy be also directed to the Area Municipalities; both requests were accepted as friendly amendments to the motion.

T. Cowan acknowledged that the issue is not within regional jurisdiction but stated he’s hopeful that Regional Council has enhanced awareness on the matter. He thanked staff for their research and the preparation of the report. He stated that he supports the report recommendation but requested that an additional amendment be approved to forward the report to all Members of Parliament.

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by J. Mitchell

WHEREAS The Region Municipality of Waterloo is concerned about the slaughter of sharks for shark fin soup and other shark fin products;

AND WHEREAS The Regional Municipality of Waterloo is opposed to the practice of shark finning;

1076925
AND WHEREAS The Regional Municipality of Waterloo is opposed to the slaughter of sharks that appear on an endangered species list or “special concern” list endorsed by the Canadian Federal Government,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Regional Municipality of Waterloo request that the Federal government investigate and pass legislation to prohibit the importation of, possession, sale and consumption of imported shark fin products, where such products are obtained via shark finning;

AND THAT The Regional Municipality of Waterloo request that the Federal government review its current position on the management of global shark populations to determine whether further restrictions and/or discussions are required with other national governments;

AND FURTHER THAT this request and a copy of report PH-11-052/CR-CLK-11-020 be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, all Members of Parliament and area municipalities.

CARRIED, as amended - unanimously

* R. Deutschmann left the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

REPORTS – Social Services

e) SS-11-051, Children’s Services Division Service Contract Policy Implementation & Future Recommendations

Mike Schuster, Commissioner, Social Services, introduced the report. Nancy Dickieson, Director, Children’s Services, provided highlights of the report. She advised that there is currently 100% participation in the Raise the Bar on Quality program and full participation in the inclusive practices of local child care providers. She acknowledged the changes that have occurred with early learning and child care programs, given the provincial directions.

N. Dickieson distributed a copy of the Annual Report on Raising the Bar on Quality to the Committee and introduced the promotional DVD, which conveyed the impact of the program on child care providers.

She responded to Committee questions related to program development of early learning care programs in the local schools, fees subsidy, the history of mandatory participation with other municipalities and summer care programs. In response to a Committee inquiry about the procedures for addressing child care operators who don’t comply with the Raising the Bar on Quality program, she advised that a comprehensive procedure and appeal process has been developed and that regular check-points with care givers throughout the year are part of the program.

In response to a Committee question about the communication procedure should it become necessary to terminate a service contract, M. Schuster advised that, as with past similar circumstances, parents would be given as much notice as possible since the care of children is the priority and that operators are responsible for accountability to the Region’s requirements. He also responded to Committee questions related to the fee subsidy schedule and the program consultation process between the province and municipalities.

* R. Deutschmann returned to the meeting at 10:54 a.m.
MOVED by G. Lorentz
SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo temporarily suspend entry into any new child care purchase of service agreements for the period of January 1, 2012 to June 15, 2012;

AND THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo endorse the policy defining participation in Raising the Bar on Quality initiative, as outlined in Report SS-11-051, dated December 6, 2011.

CARRIED

g) SS-11-052, Children’s Services Request for Approval to Enter Into Fee Subsidy Service Agreements

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by L. Armstrong

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into a Fee Subsidy Service Agreement effective December 1, 2011 with Messiah Lakeshore Cooperative Nursery School Incorporated, located at 315 Northlake Drive, Waterloo, ON; N2V 1W5;

AND THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into a Fee Subsidy Service Agreement effective December 1, 2011 with Moppet Parent Participating Preschool located at 171 Frederick Street, Kitchener, ON; N2H 2M6;

AND THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into a Fee Subsidy Service Agreement effective December 1, 2011 with the University of Waterloo Early Childhood Education Centre, located at 200 University Avenue West, Waterloo ON N2L 3G1;

AND FURTHER THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into a Fee Subsidy Service Agreement effective December 1, 2011 with Elmira Community Nursery School Incorporated located at 22 Mockingbird Drive, Elmira ON; N3B 1H4 as outlined in report SS-11-052, dated December 6, 2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Hours of Care</th>
<th>Per Diem Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Messiah Lakeshore Cooperative Nursery School</td>
<td>Toddler Less than 4</td>
<td>$34.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preschool Less than 4</td>
<td>$22.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moppet Parent Participating Preschool</td>
<td>Preschool Less than 4</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Waterloo ECE Centre</td>
<td>Preschool Less than 4</td>
<td>$20.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elmira Community Nursery School</td>
<td>Toddler Less than 4</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preschool Less than 4</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CARRIED
h) SS-11-054, Provincial One-Time Funding for Children’s Services Budget

MOVED by T. Cowan
SECONDED by B. Halloran

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo increase the 2011 Children’s Services budget by $127,673 gross and $0 net.

CARRIED

i) SS-11-056, Proposal to Open an Alzheimer Day Program in Cambridge and to Expand Overnight Respite Services at Sunnyside Home

Chair Strickland advised that since there is no impact on the Regional levy that the recommendation be amended to eliminate the need for forwarding the motion to the Budget Committee; this request was accepted as a friendly amendment.

M. Schuster and Gail Carlin Kaufman Carlin, Director, Seniors’ Services, responded to Committee questions related to the one-time funding implications on services and staffing.

MOVED by C. Zehr
SECONDED by J. Wideman

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the operation of a new Alzheimer Day Program to be located in Cambridge, conditional on approval by the Waterloo Wellington Health Integration Network (WWLHIN), effective January 1, 2012, to be 100% funded by the Province of Ontario and client fees;

AND THAT an increase of 2.8 full time equivalents (FTE) be approved for the Seniors’ Services Division as of January 1, 2012 for Cambridge Alzheimer Day Program;

AND THAT the 2012 Operating Budget for the Seniors’ Services Division be increased by $320,273 gross and $0 net;

AND THAT the 2012 Operating Budget for the Seniors’ Services Division be increased by $54,000 gross and $0 net on a one-time basis for start-up costs for the Cambridge Alzheimer Day Program;

AND THAT the Region of Waterloo approve the temporary addition of three (3) beds to the Alzheimer Overnight Stay Program, conditional on approval by the Waterloo Wellington Health Integration Network (WWLHIN), effective January 1, 2012 to March 31, 2012, to be 100% funded by the Province of Ontario and client fees;

AND THAT a temporary increase of 2.36 full time equivalents (FTE) be approved for the Seniors’ Services Division as of January 1, 2012 for the Overnight Stay Program;

AND THAT the 2012 Operating Budget for Seniors’ Services Division be increased by $53,155 gross and $0 net for the period January 1, 2012 to March 31, 2012;

AND FURTHER THAT the 2012 Fees and Charges By-law currently under consideration include the following rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Day Program - Cambridge (income based)</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation (Round Trip) – Cambridge</td>
<td>$5.00*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*The transportation rate will be subject to change in accordance with GRT rate changes as approved.

CARRIED, as amended

INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

a) Memo: RAP (Research And Planning) Sheet: Facts on Childhood Sexual Abuse

Received for information

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Council Enquiries and Requests for Information Tracking List was received for information.

b) M. Schuster commented on the memo, Christopher Children’s Centre Receives 2011 Green Building Wood Design Award, which was distributed to the Committee members during the meeting.

NEXT MEETING – January 10, 2012 – 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by J. Brewer

THAT the meeting adjourn at 11:07 a.m.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE CHAIR, S. Strickland

COMMITTEE CLERK, S. Natolochny
Celebrating 10 Years
rare Charitable Research Reserve
“Each town should have a park, or rather a primitive forest, of five hundred or a thousand acres, where a stick should never be cut for fuel, a common possession forever, for instruction and recreation.”

– Henry David Thoreau, 1859
What is rare?

- 900 + Acres
- Culturally significant landscape
- Flora and Fauna
- Larger than Central Park in New York City

LEGEND
- Grand Trunk Trail
- rare Buildings
- rare Property
- rare trails
- Parking
A *rare* History

Land is the world’s greatest storyteller.
From Past to Present.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>A Mennonite Community settles in the area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1837</td>
<td>Lamb’s Inn was built</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>William Ashton/Cruickston Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>Mathew Wilks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>University of Guelph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Incorporation of Cruickston Charitable Research Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Name change – <em>rare</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*DECEMBER 6, 2011*
Why Protect this Natural Investment?
Our Priority & Primary Objectives

Conservation  
Research  
Education
Conservation
Conservation. Preserving life and a land we treasure.

- Rich mix of flora and fauna
- Limestone cliffs and alvars
- Tall grass prairie
- Old growth forest, wetlands, rivers and streams
- Home to various habitat types and ecosystems
- Passive recreation through our many trails and activities
Research.
Reaching new heights of knowledge.

• 15 new graduate and undergraduate research projects
• $4,000 rare Scholarship in graduate studies since 2009
• Results of several research projects have been published in peer reviewed papers
• Ecological Monitoring since 2006
• Internships

Knowing more, is the key to a sustainable future.
Education
Education

Building Self Awareness, and a Sense of Community – While Developing Land Stewards of Tomorrow.

- Promoting Community, Sparking Imaginations
- Chain of Learning
- Every Child Outdoors
- Partnerships
- Diversity
A Transformation.

For the benefit of our Community, our Environment and Our Health.

• 1840’s limestone slit barn and companion farmhouse being transformed into the rare ECO Centre

• Will allow an increase in service programs for the people of the Waterloo Region

• Ethno-Cultural Communities

• Year-round programming
A Transformation.
For the benefit of our Community, our Environment and Our Health.

Every Child Outdoors

- Facilities for the Every Child Outdoors Program
- Community gathering space

Josie participates in rare’s ECO Summer Camp
Photo by Peter Kelly.
A Transformation.

For the benefit of our Community, our Environment and Our Health.

Agriculture mentorship program for New Canadians

• Community plots at rare’s Springbank Farm

• Teaching methods of sustainable agriculture

• Partnership potential with Conestoga LINC Program, YMCA Immigrant Services and FarmStart

Photo by Peter Kelly.
A Transformation.
For the benefit of our Community, our Environment and Our Health.

Peer-Reviewed Research
- Visiting Scientists
- Research on the Reserve
- Further opportunity for talks, and sharing of knowledge

Photo by Peter Kelly.
North House
North House
A unique house which integrates the latest in building technologies

- North House is a ‘living’ research lab; continued attraction of leading experts in building system science.

- The compact, energy efficient design makes us consider the way single-family dwellings are conceived and constructed.

- Most advanced prototype of its kind in the country; links with NRC; Computer assisted Construction Technology, and Continental Automated Building Association.

- Control centre technology.

- Responsive building envelope system.

- State-altering floor insulation design.

- Potential for commercialization for housing industry > potential for new jobs.
Lamb’s Inn

- $20,000 in 2006 toward a new roof
- $15,000 in 2009/2010 for asbestos removal and mould remediation
Community Partnerships
Regional Environmental Stewardship Fund

Thompson Tract

$50,000 in 2009 toward the purchase of an additional 93 acres of environmentally significant land to rare
Community Partnerships
Regional Environmental Stewardship Fund.

$16,000 in 2011 to complete Ecological Land Classification study
$4,500 in 2011 for a native tree and shrub interpretive trail
This is your land, this is our land...
This is *rare*.
10 years and growing...

rare Charitable Research Reserve

Thank you.
Engage
Ignite
Facilitate
Connect
Link
Support
Collaborate
Community Gardens: Increasing access to affordable, fresh local food

Diggable Communities Collaborative
- Increasing capacity of the community garden council and gardens (2008-2010)
- Ethno-cultural outreach (2010-2011)
- Three new community gardens two of which are all-culture gardens (2011)
- Four accessible gardens (2011-2012)

Research on urban agriculture (2011-2012)

Community Economic Development with a focus on local food processing (food security, employment/training)
For the 2010 tax season, **thirty different host organizations** provided at least **150 free tax clinics**.

**Thirteen of these clinics brought more than $664,000** into Waterloo Region’s economy by providing free tax clinic services to **1,370 Region of Waterloo residents** who live on low income.

Extrapolating from the average dollars per refund filed in our pilot evaluation, we can estimate that **the total dollars returned from all clinics in Waterloo Region in spring, 2011 exceeded $1 million**.

**Volunteers donated 1,574 hours.**
Building Effective Community-University Partnerships: Are Universities Truly Ready?

Susan Eckerle Curwood  Felix Munger  Terry Mitchell
Wilfrid Laurier University

Mary Mackeigan
Opportunities Waterloo Region

Ashley Farrar
Wilfrid Laurier University

Community-based research necessitates the development of strong community-university partnerships. As students, faculty, and a community partner critically reflect on an established partnership through the integration of a doctoral program in Community Psychology, thereby moving in long-term community-based research. This partnership readiness at the pre-partnership stage, and of the willing, but also able, to engage in effective integration framework for considering university, community programs, or institutions considering community-based research.
Community - University Partnership and Shifting Societal Attitudes

Discovering deep-seated societal attitudes through the use of theatre and photos.

C-U National Partnership – poverty hub
Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement

Opportunities Waterloo Region - Wilfrid Laurier University
Hamilton Roundtable Poverty Reduction - McMaster U., Mohawk College
VC Calgary - University of Calgary
VC Saint John - University of New Brunswick

Pending funding approval from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
Awareness of Low Income Voices

2007 – present

- engaged 52 individuals with lived experience
- 22 became members of ALIV(e)
- 4 ally members (outreach workers, community individual)
- 3 funders and sponsors ($3,300 – KWCF, $3,000 – ETFO, YWCA-KW)

- First introduction and request to Community Services Committee
- Co-hosted Community Conversations Series (Social Assistance Review)
- Partner in CCRLA-Opportunities partnership
- All-candidates packages for the municipal and provincial elections

Shared Learning:
- Guelph
- Brantford
- Region’s Social Services Dept.
Minister John Milloy
Re: Social Assistance Review
Awareness of Low Income Voices

Increase membership

Strengthen the group

❖ Skill Building Sessions
❖ Two–day retreat
❖ ALIV(e) group planning session
80% of Canadian children eligible for the Canada Learning Bond still don’t have it

Canada Learning Bond
Up to $2,000 in FREE MONEY for education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CANADA LEARNING BOND UNTAPPED FUNDS FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS’ PSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of eligible children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

December 31, 2010

Savings changes the question in a student’s mind from “Should I go?” to “What should I study?”

Source: HRSDC, Canada Education Savings Program Annual Statistical Review, 2010;
December 31, 2010

Increase awareness

Increase access

Evaluate
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Cambridge - Kinbridge | - reach 150 children and youth  
                        - offer GO AHEAD to 5 more schools (Public and Separate School Boards) |
| Kitchener - Williamsburg Neighbourhood Association | - increased access to community use of school space  
                        - 320 more kids per session, 960 for the year  
                        - Fall 2011- June 2012: 76 programs versus 39 last year (increase of 37) |
| Waterloo - Vermont Park Neighbourhood Association (VPNA) | - created a Community Garden at Ecole L’Harmonie  
                        - new partnership with Patchworks Community Garden and VPNA |
| Wellesley Township – Wellesley Community Health Centre | - Identify gaps and assets; Engage community partners  
                        - presentation to Township Council to introduce the project, then report the findings from the mapping process |
## Relevant and complementary initiatives

### Projects/partnerships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>PH/SS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Gardens</td>
<td>PH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Economic Development Project (local food)</td>
<td>PH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Recreation for ALL Youth (ARAY)</td>
<td>PH/SS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Tax Clinics</td>
<td>SS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Learning Bond</td>
<td>SS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Communities Partnership (recreation &amp; food security)</td>
<td>PH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Livelihoods Approach and FRONT (Families Reaching Out in Neighbourhoods Together) in Cambridge</td>
<td>SS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALIV(e) - Awareness of Low-Income Voices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Assistance Review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community-University Partnership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shifting Societal Attitudes towards people living in poverty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood Projects (new potential)</td>
<td>PH/SS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“A small group of volunteers from our Community Impact Council did the partnership reviews and could not stop talking about what a great report you submitted. The Chair of our Economic Security Priority Impact Team was one of the reviewers and he is suggesting that everyone on that team read it to get a good understanding of the work being done in our community. Keep up the great work.”

Nancy Bird, Director, Community Development, United Way of Kitchener-Waterloo & Area
Evolving Structure

Leadership Roundtable

Neighbourhood Initiatives (ARAY)

Regional Projects (Free Tax Clinics, Canada Learning Bond)

Community Economic Development (local food security, employment/training)
Looking forward…

Step 1: May, 2011 CCS - consultation
How will we address poverty in 2012 and beyond?

Step 2: June 2011 - Facilitated discussion with community leaders
How should the community address poverty over the next few years? What, if any, role should Opportunities have in that process?

Step 3: June 27, 28 2011 - Board Planning
- developed a 2012 – 2015 work plan
- strengthening the organization is one of the priorities

Step 4: Pending funding approval
- strategic planning with a focus on strengthening the organization (outlined in the work plan)
Thank you.

Opportunities Waterloo Region’s Funders and Sponsors:
Assuring High Quality Early Learning and Child Care

Raising The Bar on Quality:

"A community system which builds upon the existing skills and expertise of early childhood educators will support high quality, healthy child care environments."

ASCY 2003

www.tinyurl.com/QI-RTB-Info

Raising The Bar on Quality
Year Seven Summary

Background

Raising the Bar on Quality for Waterloo region (RTB) is a community-based peer accredited set of quality standards. RTB is coordinated by the Region of Waterloo, Children’s Services and is consistent with the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) role in the delivery of quality assurance across the local child care system. The seventh year of RTB was completed in May 2011. This report provides a summary of the evaluation, monitoring and highlights of RTB Year Seven (May 2010-May 2011).

A Community Approach

RTB is different from traditional accreditation models. It builds upon community capacity and involves peers in the review process. Raising the Bar is our story of working together to enhance the quality of licensed early learning and child care programs. We are proud of this community and the great work that is being done to support quality early learning and child care (ELCC) across Waterloo Region.

Yearly Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage of RTB Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td></td>
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<td>7</td>
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Evaluation and Monitoring

There are several annual evaluation and monitoring activities that take place each year relating to RTB in our community. These activities help to inform the process and keep RTB on track. A brief summary of the feedback we received is noted on the following pages.
There are three bars or areas of focus in the RTB criteria: Quality Monitoring Standards; Best Practice Standards; and Professional Development.

1. Quality Monitoring Standards
The items in this section focus on the mechanisms and activities that are in place to monitor the quality of service on an ongoing basis (e.g., family satisfaction surveys). The participating program documents examples of plans developed and actions taken in response to the needs and opportunities identified.

2. Best Practice Standards
The items in this area look at the written policies and procedures, communication practices, as well as leadership and supervision strategies which are linked to the importance of a framework and infrastructure in healthy ELCC environments.

3. Professional Development
This section speaks to the program’s commitment to ongoing professional development for staff and asks the program to demonstrate how they support the broader field of early childhood education. Specific documentation for each staff member is submitted annually.

In RTB Year Seven, there were four versions for programs to participate in RTB:
- Early Learning and Child Care programs (ELCC)
- School-Age programs (SA)
- Licensed Home Child Care programs (LHCC)
- Special Needs Resourcing agencies (SNR)
**Highlights/Accomplishments of RTB Year Seven**

**Quality Monitoring Standards**
- 94% of programs met bronze level criteria.
- 76% of programs met silver or gold level criteria.
- 38 classrooms had a standardized environmental rating scale completed by an external consultant.

**Best Practice Standards**
- 84% of programs met bronze level criteria.
- 70% of programs met silver or gold level criteria.
- 47 programs were awarded “Evergreen Status” for policies and procedures.

**Professional Development**
- 85% of programs met bronze level criteria.
- 65% of programs met silver or gold level criteria.
- Over 60% of survey participants attended seven or more professional development (PD) events.
- 479 professionals achieved platinum recognition for participating in 20 or more hours of PD.
- 21,317 hours of PD was completed by platinum recipients.

**Events**
- 43 professionals volunteered two days of their time as Peer Reviewers.
- 450 professionals attended the 6th annual Fall Focus celebration.

**Training**
- 1,569 ELCC professionals now trained on the use of standardized environmental rating scales.
RTB participants reported the following impacts of RTB participation:

- Improved skills and knowledge level of staff as a result of professional development participation.
- Increased motivation to provide high quality care.
- Greater awareness of the elements of a high quality program, and guidance on how to achieve.
- Increased professionalism.
- Increased opportunities for staff collaboration and contribution.

When asked what RTB meant to them, participants said:

- Quality improvement and assurance.
- Staying current and refreshed through professional development.
- Consistent quality and expectations across the ELCC system.
- Recognition for the work that is done above minimal standards.
- A forum to network and connect with other ELCC professionals.

“Quality, consistency, camaraderie, equality, professionalism and accountability.”
- 2011 survey respondent

Looking Forward to Year Eight

In looking ahead to RTB Year Eight (May 2011-May 2012), there are four key activities that will take place:

- Examine the Quality Monitoring Standards and/or Best Practice Standards to gauge readiness to raise the expectations for RTB Year Eight.
- Identify and promote common Inclusion Rating Scales for the RTB community.
- Increase mentoring and support to programs completing the RTB criteria.
- Increase focus on the elements of the ELECT framework.

For more information on the Raising the Bar on Quality Program, please contact the Supervisor, Quality Initiatives, Debbie Jones, (519-883-2111, Ext. 5044), DJones@regionofwaterloo.ca or the Manager, Children’s Centres and Quality Initiatives, Linda Bird, (519-883-2171), LBird@regionofwaterloo.ca
To: Chair Sean Strickland and Members of the Community Services Committee

From: Nancy Dickieson, Director, Children’s Services  
Kari Feldmann, Senior Project Manager, Facilities

Copies: Michael Schuster, Commissioner, Social Services  
Ellen McGaghey, Director, Facilities  
Gary Sosnoski, Commissioner, Corporate Resources

File No.: S04-20

Subject: CHRISTOPHER CHILDREN’S CENTRE RECEIVES 2011 GREEN BUILDING WOOD DESIGN AWARD

Staff are pleased to report that Ontario Wood WORKS awarded the architects for the Christopher Children’s Centre the 2011 Green Building Wood Design Award at the 11 Annual Ontario Wood Works Award Event!

The Green Building Wood Design Award recognizes projects that best demonstrate how wood contributed significantly to the overall environmental performance of a building. Of the nominees, Christopher Children’s Centre best demonstrated how these principles have been applied in the building’s design and construction. By using re-purposed and locally sourced wood, Lillepold-Dowling Architects in association with CS&P Architects were able to cut down on the carbon footprint of transporting materials from more distant places.

One of the most significant uses of wood in the project was wood recovered from a black walnut tree cut down on the property to make way for the new building. The wood was hand carved into a creation of public art by local artist Fred Zavadil: a forest scene bas relief called “Nature’s Realm”, along with five individual life sized carvings of forest animals. Wood was used throughout the building in benches, coat cubbies and accent panels on the walls. Christopher Children’s Centre is located at 30 Christopher Drive, Cambridge and is one of the five child care centres directly operated by the Region.
As one of the award winners, a picture of Christopher Children’s Centre is featured in the Wood Works 2012 calendar.

For further information, please contact Nancy Dickieson, Director, Children’s Services at 519-883-2177 or ndickieson@region.waterloo.on.ca