

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT

HEALTH & FAMILY SERVICES

SENIORS SERVICES

INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Colleen Wilson
Director, Seniors Services

DATE: August 11, 2008

SUBJECT: Activity Report on Senior Centres

This report is for the information of Council.

BACKGROUND

There are twelve Senior Centres located throughout the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, all providing similar services for seniors located in their communities. They serve adults over 50 years of age and their services can include recreational programs, social activities, public education, etc. The centres foster social relationships that prevent isolation and provide a place where participants can get individual help from visiting professionals for services such as foot care, hearing aides and educational information related to various health care issues. Presently there are over 3,000 registered members. The centres have become well established meeting places for seniors and act as an ideal venue for conveying information throughout the local community, creating a valuable supportive resource for seniors. The 12 senior centres now include:

- Blenheim Community Senior Citizens Group
- Bothwell Senior Citizens Centre
- Chatham Active Lifestyle Centre
- Dresden Leisure Hours Centre
- Merlin Senior Citizens Friendship Club
- Morpeth Heritage Club
- Le Club de l'Amitie (Friendship Club)
- Ridgetown & Area Adult Activity Centre
- Tilbury & District Leisure Centre
- Thamesville Happy Club
- Wallaceburg Senior Citizens Club Inc.
- Wheatley & District Friendship Club

Grande Pointe Senior Centre is no longer deemed as a Senior Centre.

COMMENTS

All of the Senior Centres support the Ontario Senior Games and this year six (6) of the Centres hosted events for the Summer Games. Pain Court hosted scrabble and six-handed pepper, Thamesville hosted contract bridge, Chatham hosted euchre and carpet bowling, Tilbury hosted bid euchre, Wheatley hosted cribbage and Morpeth hosted shuffleboard. The participants are responsible for the costs associated with playing in these games.

A Job Creation Position (JCP) for a Leisure Analyst has been approved for nine months. This candidate's main tasks include:

- Support the Senior Advisory Committee and help collect information and pictures for the senior's information and resource booklet.
- Support the Senior Games Committee and assist Brandon Ball, the District Coordinator for the Chatham Kent Ontario Senior Games
- Visit each Senior Centre. Gather all policies and procedures, job descriptions and by laws in order to review and revise for consistency purposes.
- Assist in the preparation of a "Directory of Resources for Seniors" which are available in each senior centre
- Research the availability of grants that are available to the Senior Centres
 - Submitted grant applications for interested Senior Centres to 'Kraft Canada's Savour Summer Community Centre Rejuvenation' in July, 2008

A list of services provided at each centre is attached as Appendix A.

CONSULTATION

The JCP candidate is preparing an information pamphlet to distribute to all of the high schools within the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. This pamphlet will highlight to students the opportunities available to them to complete their "Community Involvement Hours" at their local Senior Centres. Chatham-Kent Secondary School Student Services personnel have already been contacted and they have indicated that the 'volunteer experience' that the students would receive meets the curriculum requirements. The student may perform any duties that would not otherwise be performed by a paid employee. The students who volunteer can help organize events, dinners and promote services at the centres.

It has been agreed by the Senior Centres' presidents that raising the awareness within the Community about the Senior Centres, the Chatham-Kent Ontario Senior Games, and all the other services provided for seniors, is of utmost importance and would benefit the seniors in our community. Many centres have monthly newsletters that are distributed throughout their community and they all feel that the "Directory of Services for Seniors" will greatly benefit their individual communities and they have each agreed to aid in the collection of information. Seniors need to have information readily accessible to them regarding any and all aspects of wellness and enhancing their retirement years. The Senior Centres and the JCP candidate are investigating other

avenues that would enhance education and information such as funeral planning, wellness programs, home security, drive wise programs and tax preparation etc.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

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Appendix A: List of activities offered at the Senior Centres

Adult Centres	Blenheim	Bothwell	Chatham	Dresden	Merlin	Morpeth	Pain Court	Ridgetown	Thamseville	Tilbury	Wallaceburg	Wheatley
Activities												
Foot Clinic (VON)	Y	Y			Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		
Alzheimer's Society							Y		Y			
Meals on Wheels	Y						Y					
Canadian Hearing Society							Y					
Tai Chi		Y					Y		Y	Y		
Exercise Classes		Y		Y			Y			Y		
Cards (Bridge, Euchre, Pepper etc.)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bus Tours	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Line Dancing		Y					Y	Y	Y	Y		
Games Room	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Seasonal Banquets	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Good Cheer	Y					Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Glee Club	Y						Y				Y	
Birthday Parties	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				Y	
Ceramic/Quilting				Y			Y			Y	Y	
Bowling							Y					
Computer Instruction							Y		Y			
Craft Room	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y		Y	Y		