

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL CONSOLIDATED AGENDA



Council Chambers, Guelph City Hall, 1 Carden Street

DATE November 29, 2012 – 6:00 p.m.

Please turn off or place on non-audible all cell phones, PDAs, Blackberrys and pagers during the meeting.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

DELEGATIONS REGARDING THE 2013 TAX SUPPORTED OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGETS

- Sonya Poweska, Executive Director, Guelph Arts Council
- Elizabeth Dent, Executive Director, Ed Video
- Sandy Ferguson-Escott, Chair, Guelph Non-Profit Housing Board
- Paul Clulow, Secretary/Treasurer, CUPE Local 241
- Craig Chamberlain (*operations budget*)
- Marty Williams, Executive Director, Downtown Guelph Business Association
- Lianne Howie, Mitchell Woods Public School Parent Council (*crossing guards*)
- Krista Thompson, Co-Chair, King George Public School Parent Council (*crossing guards*)
- Rosemary Blacklock (*crossing guards*)
- Kendra Spira, Laurine Avenue School Parent Council (*crossing guards*)
- Kathy Watts (*crossing guards*)
- Bill Tufts, Executive Director, Fair Pensions for All
- Duncan MacKenzie (*cycling infrastructure*)
- Steve Lidkea (*cycling infrastructure*)
- Yvette Tendick (*cycling infrastructure*)
- Suzanne Gates (*cycling infrastructure*)
- Donna Jennison (*cycling infrastructure*)
- Stephen Saines (*cycling infrastructure*)
- Jack Sills (*cycling infrastructure*)
- Terry O'Connor, 1st Vice-President, Guelph & District Labour Council
- Lloyd Longfield, Guelph Chamber of Commerce
- Milton Burns
- Mary DuQuesnay, St. Joseph's Health Centre
- Jeff Burke
- Bill Gardner (*sidewalk winter control*)
- John Valeriote, Vice-Chair, Macdonald Stewart Art Centre
- Kathleen Schmalz (*Macdonald Stewart Art Centre*)
- David Sills, President, Guelph Civic League

CORRESPONDENCE

- Alissa Gibson
- David Schaller
- Jack Dyson
- Rosemarie Blacklock (*petition*)
- Krista McDougall
- Dave Shaw
- Collin Gilhooly
- Bob Jonkman
- Michael Richardson
- Barbara Shaw
- Jeff Biegus
- Debbie Pelkie
- Sheila de Peuter
- Laura Schenk
- Trena Bernon
- Shirley Greenwood
- Stan Stanek
- Brent Beam
- Ross & Kathy Cochrane
- Joan Smith
- Mary DuQuesnay (*information*)
- Donna Jennison (*petition*)
- Bill Gardner (*powerpoint presentation*)

ADJOURNMENT

Submission from Rosemarie Blacklock

Petition:

“We the undersigned are concerned citizens who urge our City Council Members to act now to hire crossing guards to patrol the Taylor Evans School Crossing located at Stephanie Drive and Rochelle Drive.”

120 Signatures were received.

From: McDougall, Krista
Sent: November 22, 2012 3:08 PM
To: Clerks
Subject: Parking Rate Increases??!!

The proposed 2013 City Budget includes an increase in monthly parking permits rates of 5%. The new monthly rates come into effect on January 1, 2013. The increase in rates will help balance rising parking costs such as regular maintenance of our parking lots and parking infrastructure. Maintenance is necessary to ensure the safety of the public.

Really? I'm already paying \$79.10 each month and I don't even have a spot within a parking lot? I get regular maintenance but this is ridiculous.
And what safety? Our parking lot at Baker St/Meters is dimly lit if that.
For this amount we should have automatic in/out privileges as well as a properly graded lot.
When will it stop? When none of us can afford to park downtown?

Please don't increase.

Krista McDougall

From: Dave Shaw
Sent: November 22, 2012 12:51 PM
To: Mayors Office; Cam Guthrie; Gloria Kovach
Subject: Guelph Budget

I have listened with amazement at the budget deliberations for 2013. I am a small business owner and previously have served as Vice President of a number of large businesses including GSW. When I heard the CAO came back with a budget requiring an increase of 8.9% in taxes after being told to come back with no more than 3% I was very angry. If someone had done this in private business they most likely would have been immediately dismissed. The fact she said core services would have to be cut has to be absolutely false. Inflation is running at about 2% so how could costs go up 8.9% or more unless new services are being added. When I look at the services I have I see one core one disappearing that is yard waste collection in 2014. That is a stupid decision from a financial and environmental point of view. By my calculation this will result in at least 50,000 extra visits to the waste depot with the attendant idling vehicles. Older people who are unable to do that could be forced from their homes if they are not forced out already by tax increases. My taxes have risen 52.5% in 12 years. That is over twice the rate of inflation and is unsustainable. There are lots of areas to cut. E.g. police services should not be adding personnel but reducing as crime is at an all time low and Guelph a low crime area. At best it should be flat. How about reducing bus service in off peak hours so we have less empty or nearly empty buses driving around. A diesel city bus with less than 10 passengers is more unfriendly environmentally too. I appreciate that both councilors for Ward 4 have been supportive of reducing frills in the budget that are considered core by others. We need a wholesale slashing of unneeded or non core programs and we need it soon.

From: Collin Gilhooly
Sent: November 26, 2012 2:14 PM
To: Clerks
Cc: Joan Warns
Subject: Re: The proposed 2013 City Budget

To whom it concerns,

I would like to make mention that since I've had a parking pass in Guelph, my rate as almost doubled. I've **NEVER** seen an improvement in the lot I'm in (it's still gravel/sand) and when it's plowed, I've had to dig myself (and other co-workers) out of the spot. Although this increase will probably go through, I'd like to mention that I'm a commuter working in downtown Guelph from Hamilton and because of the increased parking cost over the years, I'd like who ever this email reaches to know that I will **NEVER** tell Clients, Friends and Family to come downtown for lunches, dinners or to shop. I'll leave the downtown to shop and eat from now on, and even go as far as to start meeting people in Burlington to eat or shop rather than having them come to Guelph's Downtown

Collin

From: Bob and Gerda Jonkman
Sent: November 25, 2012 6:36 PM
To: Clerks
Subject: Proposed budget

Please pass this note to all those involved in the budget proposal.....:

It looks like politicians at the local level have taken too many tips from the higher levels of government. 'Say one thing but do another'!

You talk about making Guelph more senior friendly but the proposals to keep the cost increase down to 3% don't reflect that:

You want to cut sidewalk snow clearing and put that responsibility on the residents. Well many seniors cannot handle that kind of work. You talk of saving \$500,000 and then turn around and spend \$400,000 of the savings to hire more enforcement officers to police it. You are saving \$100,000 to make the city less senior friendly.

Then there is the tax increase itself – Seniors are on fixed incomes - they don't get a raise of even 1% let alone 3% or more. That means less food and comfort for seniors. In some cases it may mean they will need to go on welfare as a result. How is this making the city more senior friendly??

All these cost saving ideas (garbage collection with new bins will save money but cost more??) always seem to increase the budget. Why?

Look at all the big spending items and pare these down to realistic ones. Quit wasting money on consultants whose reports just go on the shelf anyway. Look at staff and like most industries have to – become more efficient. Have more staff share the work load in different departments so there is efficiency as well as cross-training happening at the same time.

You cannot keep increasing the taxes each year and say you want to make Guelph more senior friendly! ☹

Regards..
Bob jonkman
A concerned senior

From: Michael Richardson
Sent: November 22, 2012 10:51 PM
To: Mayors Office
Cc: Andy VanHellemond; Bob Bell; Jim Furfaro
Subject: Crossing Guard Services - Lemon Street

Dear Mayor Farbridge:

I am writing in response to an article that appeared in the Guelph Tribune earlier this week. I am a resident of Lemon Street and my daughter attends King George Public School. Fellow parents at the school park along Lemon Street during drop-off and pick-up times (often in clear contravention of the recently-posted "no parking" signs that have been placed in proximity to the intersections). The entrance to the kindergarten playground is at the corner of Lemon and Metcalfe streets. During the morning and afternoon rush, the corner of Metcalfe and Lemon is very busy, with both extensive vehicle and pedestrian traffic (as well as a city bus route). The volunteer students that participate in the school safety patrol do their best to coordinate pedestrian crossings at the four-way stop at Metcalfe and Lemon and at the T-intersection at Lemon and St. Catharine. They provide an important service to parents and young students. However, it is obvious to me, as both a neighbour (with a clear view of the street and both intersections) and a parent, that a regular, paid, adult crossing guard would be a vast improvement over the current system and would provide an appropriate complement to the young school safety patrol members. Visibility can be very limited along this congested street when cars are parked on both sides of the street and in close proximity to the intersection. Although they wear coloured vests, the child volunteers do not carry "Stop" signs and they do not enter the intersection to alert motorists to stop. Instead, from a position on the sidewalk, they rely on hand signals and eye contact with motorists to regulate the pedestrian traffic and to enhance safety.

I am encouraged that city staff have recognized the need for a crossing guard at these intersections. Please encourage city staff to do their best to prioritize the filling of the crossing guard position for both the Lemon and Metcalfe and Lemon and St. Catharine intersections.

I hope that the city will find the resources to continue to fund paid, adult crossing guards in school areas. I understand that the current program needs improvements in order to continue to function. However, the article in the Tribune raised the possibility that the current program of paying crossing guards to provide services may not be able to continue. I cannot imagine that such an important service - wherein protecting the city's youngest and most vulnerable citizens is the primary objective - would be tossed aside in order to fund other budget pressures. The safety of young children must surely be of a high enough priority to warrant the continuation of the crossing guard program (hopefully, in an improved format). I hope that you and your council members are in agreement with the need to improve the current program, and to expand the intersections covered by the program, rather than to end it.

Sincerely,

Michael Richardson

Re: Budget 2013

The more I read about the proceedings of Council and the wishes of city staff re budget matters, the more I realize that the City of Guelph must have a tax base less dependent on residential property taxes than it has at the present time.

It would make Guelph such a wonderful place if all the “wishes” of city staff could be implemented without property tax increases. But the above scenario is not the reality. Taxpayers are faced with increases in so many essentials, e.g. the cost of water, the cost of food, the cost of utilities, the cost of services not funded by city taxes.....the list goes on and on. For most people, the scenario is what must be cut from household budgets to cover the cost of all the other increases. Guelph Council and Guelph staff should be doing the same. In other words, before a new job or new service is approved, it should be determined which job or service would need to be cut. The cost of any new job or service would need to be matched by a cut of a similar amount of money.

A review of the budget makes it quite clear that personnel costs and benefits make up the largest percentage of the budget. Therefore, it is in the personnel section of the budget where we should be looking for cuts and freezes that would permit us to fund the services needed. Council and Staff may say that these cuts and freezes can't be realized for a host of reasons. The alternative is to spiral deeper and deeper in to debt. Surely Guelph can “put the brakes on” before the above scenario becomes the reality as it has with so many governments in Canada and throughout the world. If Council and City Staff cannot bring themselves to make the tough decisions regarding personnel, then the only other escape route is to make sure that no new hiring takes place.

Last year I was intrigued by the discussion regarding the high rate of absenteeism at City Hall. It would be necessary to hire a new person to look in to this matter. Surely current managers should recognize that this matter is their own responsibility. But, far more telling, is the fact that if City Hall can manage the affairs of the city with this high rate of absenteeism, then there are a substantial number of jobs that are really not necessary.

Barbara Shaw

From: JEFF BIEGUS

Sent: November 23, 2012 11:10 AM

To: Mayors Office; Bob Bell; Jim Furfaro; Andy VanHellemond; Ian Findlay; June Hofland; Maggie Laidlaw; Cam Guthrie; Gloria Kovach; Lise Burcher; Leanne Piper; Todd Dennis; Karl Wettstein

Subject: Residential Sidewalk Plowing

All,

I am writing to encourage you to vote to eliminate the residential sidewalk plowing program. It is time for this program to go.

Home ownership is a responsibility. As a home owner you are responsible to maintain your property. The city does not cut your grass, pickup garbage on your property, remove dead trees or pick up after your dog, yet there are bylaws that govern the appearance of your property. Grass cutting takes far more time in the growing season than shovelling your sidewalk after the occasional snow fall and people find the time to do this.

Also, in today's society, many people own snow-blowers where there was a time when far less people owned such machines. And why do they own these? To remove the snow from their driveway and the mouth of their driveway. Neither area is cleared by the city and they find the time to do this. If your driveway and walkway are not cleared, you are civilly liable if someone were to fall and injure themselves and Canada Post will not deliver your mail to your door if the carrier feels it is unsafe for them to do so. I don't see how expecting people to clear the snow from the sidewalk in front of their house is adding an incredible burden or responsibility and I think you will find bylaw enforcement minimal. I personally find manually shovelling an opportunity to get outside and get a bit of exercise and shouldn't that be something the city should promote? I also find it frustrating when the sidewalk plow drives down my freshly shovelled sidewalk and knocks snow back onto the sidewalk and packs it down under it's wheels because it is too wide for the sidewalk in my neighbourhood.

The city should provide real services that can only be provided by the city such as affordable public transportation, snow removal from roadways, parks and recreation facilities etc. Sidewalk snow plowing is not a service required by the city.

Sincerely,

Jeff Biegus

From: Pelkie, Debbie
Sent: November 22, 2012 4:09 PM
To: Clerks
Subject: Proposed increase in parking permit fees!

To whom it may concern;

I have just received an email from Joan Warns regarding the potential for parking permit fees to be raised a whopping 5% come January 1.

There are many reasons why this is beyond absurd. But what I primarily have a problem with is the fact that I just signed up at the end of October....so not only did I have to pay the crazy 1 time admin fee, and the deposit fee for the permit....I am now being told a couple weeks later that my already crazy high fees are going up even more? Should there not be some kind of security for those who have just signed up - that you guarantee that rate for at least a year?

The City of Guelph makes a killing on parking fees, not to mention these so called "admin fees" which cover the cost of the 1 sheet of paper that I used to fill out my information on, and the 2 seconds it took someone to input my details on the computer. And from my understanding these admin fees have just recently been implemented.

I park in the Wyndham lot, and pay \$85 a month (this is already deemed a new lot, and Guelph is now making more money on this new added lot). Not only is the little side road to get to that lot in HORRIBLE condition - half the time you can't fit your car down the road because people have parked their car in the lane way. I once had to wait nearly 30 minutes, because there was a truck parked there, apparently full of band members setting up to do a concert!! And seeing as I have only had my permit a short time.....you can see how frustrating this is. I still can't figure out why you don't have access to the Wyndham lot from Wyndham street!! It would make access to that far easier, and less complications, even making the Wyndham street access an exit only!

I don't live in Guelph - I commute from Fergus, so parking is necessary for me, so bottom line I have no choice....but wow is the City really taking advantage of that!

For the prices you currently charge - your not providing what you should be, and the answer isn't "raise the fees"....if you start raising the fees...then you need to start offering more free parking. To give those who are working hard for a living an opportunity to put the money earned back into their families, instead of parking costs just to go to work.

Hoping that this proposed increase is turned down,
-Debbie Pelkie

From: Sheila_dePeuter
Sent: November 27, 2012 3:35 PM
To: Clerks
Subject: Fw: The proposed 2013 City Budget

Please add my email address to your distribution list.

I park in the new Wyndham lot. There are some issues with accessibility to and from this lot given trucks/deliveries to the surrounding businesses. Even so, it is one of the most expensive parking lots in town. After tax I believe it is about \$85 per month. I think that is ridiculous for parking in a town the size of Guelph. If you raise rates, there should be a monthly cap. Perhaps an increase can be done on a lot by lot basis--and don't apply it to this lot. I believe charging a monthly parking fee upwards of \$90 is exorbitant.

Thank you.

Sheila de Peuter | Communication Consultant
Marketing & Communications | The Co-operators

From: Beaucoupe
Sent: November 27, 2012 3:15 PM
To: Clerks; Mayors Office
Subject: Proposed Parking Increase

Hello

I would prefer to offer my comments in person at the Council meeting on Thursday evening although my business is open at that time, so I am sending these comments in this form.

Firstly I feel this increase is far too high given the current state of economic conditions. The proposed 5 per cent increase is more than double the Bank of Canada's target rate of 2 per cent.

In our household we have 2 parking permits. One is held for a commuter who is trying to make use of the struggling rail commuter service offered in our community. He works long hours and is forced to combine train and bus service to get in and out of Toronto. When he arrives home at the end of his day to retrieve his vehicle parked in the West Parkade he must walk down the very poorly lit lane to get to the entrance to the Parkade. Once there, the interior doors leading to the staircases are locked therefore he is forced to walk up the vehicle ramps to the designated 4th and 5th floor parking for permit holders. In which case the security and safety of parking permit holders has been highly disregarded.

The second permit I hold for the Baker Street parking lot. As a business owner I make huge efforts throughout the year to maintain a business in the downtown core which attracts shoppers. As previously mentioned in this current economic climate there is no room for a 5 per cent increase in my prices. Yet there is constantly need for improvement and betterment on the end of the business.

Please take these comments into consideration when making your decisions in moving forward with the increase in parking rates.

Sincerely,

Laura Schenk

From: Trena Bernon
Sent: November 27, 2012 8:54 PM
To: Mayors Office
Cc: Jim Furfaro
Subject: Council Decisions

To the Mayor and Members of Council:

My husband and I and our two children moved to Guelph in 1965 and we came to love it very much.....until the last few years. We have seen waste of Taxpayers' money with mistakes made and poor decisions in other areas. For example, let's start with the garbage bins....they are too cumbersome and will be too smelly in the summer.....plus we live in a 4 unit town home on McArthur Cres where it is impossible to store the bins in the back and since our garage is so small, we cannot fit them and our car there too. So where do you expect us to put them?

Hopefully you will not suggest our front yard or porch! We did not spend our hard earned dollars on this expensive home to have it look and smell like a pig sty. Next, how do you explain

2 or 3 percent tax increase and yet decide to hire 23 more people? How do you explain the tax increase and expect us to pay someone to shovel our sidewalks as we go away for the winter and even if we stayed at home, we are both pain patients in our 70's who cannot shovel the snow. Our neighbor is good enough to shovel our driveway, but should we expect him to do our sidewalk too? As well, there was talk about making your jobs full-time, yet you want to take January, August and maybe July off as well? These are just a few of the examples that have really angered me and for the first time since we moved to Guelph, I feel like moving to another town or city.....to me that is very sad that we are made to feel that way. I know from talking to others that they are very frustrated as well.

Hopefully you will reconsider the snow shoveling decision.....does it make sense to save \$500,000 and then spend \$400,000 reinforcing the By-law and making very many seniors and I suspect ,others, as well, very angry? I do not mind a slight 2 or 3 percent tax increase but I then feel that our services should either Increase or at least, remain the same. Thank you for your consideration,

Trena Bernon

From: Ken & Shirley Greenwood
Sent: November 27, 2012 5:39 PM
To: Mayors Office; Andy VanHellemond; Bob Bell; Cam Guthrie; Gloria Kovach; Ian Findlay; Jim Furfaro; June Hofland; Karl Wettstein; Leanne Piper; Lise Burcher; Maggie Laidlaw; Todd Dennis
Cc: Guelph Mercury Editor; P. Andrews
Subject: Proposed Property Tax Increase

November 27th

Madam Mayor:

I have just finished reading an article in the Guelph Tribune which advises Guelph residents of Council's proposal to increase property taxes yet again by 3.74% in order to balance the budget. It also mentions the suggestion of cutting snow plowing services in order to reduce some costs.

This seems to be the first thing most of the Councillors can think of, i.e. raise the taxes and cut the services. The residents of this City already face higher taxes and poorer services than the residents in most of the surrounding municipalities.

It is time this Council started being accountable to the residents who pay these taxes and who also voted them into office, and start cutting wasteful spending such as the \$10,000 spent on an "Ethics Report" which was a total waste of time and money. I could quote many other areas where this Council are wasting money and not being fiscally responsible. It is time the Council started living within its means and not spending like there is no tomorrow, and then expecting the property owners to cover the cost of its gross mismanagement of city funds. In addition, to suggest removing the sidewalk snow clearing is ludicrous as well as being short-sighted. The liability implications that could be faced by this City far outweigh any savings. In other words, "penny wise, pound foolish".

This proposed increase will mean around \$174 to our household budget, and as seniors on a fixed income it is an added expense my husband and I can ill afford, and one that is not necessary if the budget was being correctly managed. We didn't work hard all our lives to get a nice home to live comfortably in our retirement, to end up paying inflated property taxes because this Council cannot manage its budget.

As Mayor of this City, it is your responsibility to ensure this Council is run efficiently and not to lead the charge on wasteful spending and tax increases which has been your record so far since taking office. As a taxpayer, I would like an accounting of what efforts have been made to cut wasteful spending before such an increase is pushed through.

Shirley Greenwood

From: Stan and Jana Stanek

Sent: November 26, 2012 12:07 PM

To: editor@guelphmercury.com

Cc: Bob Bell; Andy VanHellemond; Leanne Piper; Mayors Office; Karl Wettstein; Ian Findlay; Todd Dennis; June Hofland; Gloria Kovach; Cam Guthrie; Maggie Laidlaw; Lise Burcher; Jim Furfaro

Subject: Snow plowing

Letter to the editor:

Absolutely outrageous!

The city staff once again recommends cancelling the residential sidewalk plowing. Apparently it costs approximately \$500,000 annually. But, according the Guelph Mercury (Nov. 23), by cancelling it the City would save only about \$100,000. The City still has to plow in front of city properties and parks, clear the bus stops etc. While before it has been done mostly along the residential route, now the plows would have to travel in front of residential houses with the blade raised and the cost of this unproductive travel could not be attributed to residential plowing anymore. But it would lower the saving from cancelling the residential program.

Lets assume, that the cost of this unproductive travel would be \$100,000. Subtract this and the perceived \$100,000 of savings from cancelling the program and you are left with a \$300,000 cost. Most of it would be, according to the Mercury article, needed to pay for additional by-law enforcement. That presumably means hiring additional by-law enforcement officers, who would harass and fine residents not cleaning their sidewalks within the by-law prescribed time - most likely 24 hours. In the meantime, the City takes up to five days to do it under the current program!

In total, from less than \$5 annual cost of the program per resident, **you save the City and me about \$1 and spend the remaining \$4 on expenses otherwise absolutely unnecessary.** Along the way you saddle the physically impaired, the elderly, the people on ski vacations and the snowbirds with the cost of hiring somebody to do it for them. Not everybody would qualify for the volunteer help program proposed last time around. Some may even get a heart attack trying to do it by themselves.

Please look at the cost of outsourcing the legal and other services and leave the one program benefiting all Guelph citizens alone! Grade 3 student would realize that the math does not make sense.

Stan Stanek.

From: BRENT BEAM

Sent: November 28, 2012 4:01 PM

To: Mayors Office; Bob Bell; Jim Furfaro; Andy VanHellemond; Ian Findlay; June Hofland; Maggie Laidlaw; Cam Guthrie; gloria.kovack@guelph.ca; Lise Burcher; Leanne Piper; Todd Dennis; Karl Wettstein

Cc: bbea7823

Subject: CITIZEN BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Brent Beam
34 Buckthorn Crescent
Guelph, Ontario
N1E 7C3

Dear City Council,

I wish, as a Guelph citizen and tax payer, to address numerous budget concerns prior to your decision making process next week. I had registered early on Monday as a delegation for tomorrow's public input meeting, but after the Monday council meeting proceedings relating to proposed IT expenditures, I felt that it would be impossible to adequately comment in the brief five minute period allotted, so I cancelled and am substituting this email.

By way of perspective, I am a retired public servant, and am fortunate to have a professional managed pension into which I paid just under 9% of my income for nearly 30 years. In the early part of my career I was laid off for nearly three years when my job became redundant during a severe recession in the early 1980s. Subsequently, I consumed all my savings to retrain in another less desirable career as a stop gap until I was able to find another job. By then I was 33 years of age.

My parents were not rich having raised 5 children on a single lower middle class income, so I paid my own way thru university(Univ of Guelph..Fish and Wildlife Biology B.Sc, then Aquatic Ecology...M.S. Univ. of Toronto) with minimum wage or lower jobs).

In short, I have learned the importance of budgeting, carefully considered financial strategies, and living within my means in order to achieve my goals under difficult circumstances, having managed my family budget out of debt to surplus over the past 35 years.

First I have no boats in front of my house which is the norm for most property owning Guelphites. In fact, while visiting garage sales, a few years back to save on the cost of material goods, I saw many boats for sale in front of houses. However, I freely admit, that I did splurge and buy a brand new Toyota Corolla 4 years ago once my mortgage was paid off. Prior to that I bought only used cars to save money... to pay off debt as rapidly as I could...as mortgage rates during this period ranged from 17% to about 7%. This meant few restaurant visits, mostly staycations...in short I did what I had to do to live within my means without compromising the essentials.

Since I moved to Guelph some 24 years ago, my Municipal tax has risen just shy of 400%(I did move from one house to a larger one so I have also adjusted that figure for the additional assessment), and by next year it will have exceeded 400% if the budget increase of over 3.5% is concluded). So that extra 90\$, \$100, \$113, \$150 each year,at close to twice the inflation rate creates an exponentially growing cost to every property owner, and business that is subject to the terms of the Municipal tax laws introduced well over a century go. This has been the single largest % increase in my range of household expenses....and I have some difficulty seeing where services have increased or improved proportionately. If I determine where my salary would be if I were still working now, my salary would have increased by slightly less than 200%... to put things in perspective.

At the same time,even with much lower mortgage and personal loan interest rates, than occurred during my period of indebtedness, the middle class is falling behind with ominous implications. After all, without a financially healthy middle class, spending their shrinking discretionary income, many businesses will have to lay off employees, their will be defaults on mortgages, and credit card debt, etc. a very tragic and slippery slope to disaster for the poor of society who depend on the tax revenue from the properties that are vacated and abandoned by the middle class, and the businesses fueled by them. Yes it has happened in the USA...a sobering case study ...and it can happen here..as the earning power of the middle, middle class is gradually being sapped and transferred to higher income earners.

If you are not convinced about the seriousness of the situation pertaining to the middle class tax payers, read the reports of the Bank Of Canada.

Here are some of the verifiable stats.

Average Ontarian household debt excluding mortgage	\$15,000
Average Canadian Household debt including mrtgag	\$112,000
Average Canadian Univ Graduate Student Debt	\$145,000
Average Canadian Mrtgage Debt under 45 yrs old	\$129,000
Avg Canadian Mrtgage Debt 45 to 64	\$102,000
Avg Canadian Mrtgage Debt over 65	\$66,000

20% of Canadian must borrow to pay living expenses
40% say they will be unable to pay their mortgage by age 65
45 % anxious about credit card debt

Symptomatic of the above realities listed above is record earnings by the big Canadian banks even while interest rates remain at historic lows.

As well as this very serious situation with household debt, we have government spending at all levels reaching serious levels.

Ontario debt 237 billion but will be 275 billion when the McGuinty government claims it will have its budget balanced. This costs Ontarions 10 billion in UNPRODUCTIVE interest each year.

Federal debt 600 billion.

These last two items leave every working Ontarion/Guelphite with or without personal debt with an additional \$50,000 in indebtedness.... that would be \$100,000 in my household...so it is with a note of considerable agitation that my elected representatives have shown considerable irresponsibility with my (and others) tax dollars. How can I trust and respect elected officials and their staff to act responsibly with money..especially when Mr. McGuinty's government recently squandered nearly 3 billion dollars, with little benefit to the majority citizens of Ontario in a failed IT undertaking with eHealth(ie: failure to periodically monitor spending behaviour and productivity of staff), Ornge Air ambulance services,and cancelled gas-fired electrical generating stations(ie failed to consult local residents for approval).

So that brings me to your difficult task of managing the budget for our services here in Guelph for the year 2013. I hope what I have written here allows all of you to understand the serious financial situation facing the majority of the middle class, what is with high probability at stake if spending is not reigned in. It's a nice comfy feeling to have a full slate of 20 firefighters at \$100,000 each in the new south end fire station built to service a community much larger than currently exists. I shook my head last year when Mr. Bell's effort to explain that perhaps we could do without 6 of them at a savings of \$600,000 was met with resistance by Ms.Piper who claimed the higher ground of public safety which was met by the usual block on council that voted in favor of the, in my view unnecessary, expenditure. So it mystifies me why you collectively would not support the continued plowing of city sidewalks for the same reason...safety (how many elderly folks with brittle bones are critically injured by slipping on icy walkways each year) for a relatively nickle and dime figure, much less than \$600,000 (excluding any fire equipment required to furnish these new hires in subsequent years)..just \$100,000 assuming as Ms. Hofland remarked there are not additional expenses related to enforcement and lawsuits. But what about the sections of sidewalk not in front of a residence..do you propose to lift the plow onto a flatbed trailer and move it a few hundred metres or less to the section of walkway in front of green space. As it is most residents in my neighbourhood are very timely in removing snow from our sidewalks including those on holidays or physically unable ,usually within an hour or two of the end of snowfall because we recognize the importance of maintaining access for the many that need to use the sidewalks. But the sections in front of green space normally do not get this citizen service. I can't help but think this reduction in service was proposed by Mr. McCaughen to blunt the outrageous request for 1.5 forestry personnel at \$260,000. Did you know that we already have a forestry person by the name of Randy Drewery. Also, Murray Cameron has extensive knowledge in this specialty. Now you want to increase this area of

personnel (remember it's salary and benefits which are our greatest cost pressure in this city) by 250%. No wonder we can't control our costs. The average salary in Ontario for a forestry tech is \$45,000. So an entry level should be even less. With benefits the proposed cost of the new personnel should be closer to \$80,000..so what about the other \$180,000...a slush fund for the Operations department, although I suspect there is yet another vehicle cost in there. Can employees not share vehicles..there are so city vehicles around the city now? By the way with respect to Firefighters at \$100,000. There are no shortages of very highly qualified firefighters. Recently, I spoke to a very able, highly qualified recently graduated female firefighter who participated in the September Fire Fighter Appreciation Day competitions in Milton, and outshone many of her male counterparts. When I mentioned that the entry level firefighters in Guelph make \$100,000 with benefits, she corrected me saying that the starting salary is closer to 50 to 60 thou. That's a big gap for the tax payers of Guelph.

Finally, the proposed IT expense bonanza. I'm sure that there will be some advantages for improved efficiency with an expertly designed IT business system for the communication and operation of the city of Guelph. But I have painful memories of the great cost of building the new Guelph Civic Centre, for which I as a citizen was not consulted. In addition, the council at the time claimed that the cost of the building would be offset to a degree by greater efficiency with employees closer together and not scattered all over the city. My translation of greater efficiency means more cost efficiency, which in turn would dampen the rate of tax increases. Well on average, that hasn't happened..but council and the employees have a very nice spacious, comfortable place to work on the tax payer's tab. In fact, with all the additional hires, including HVAC technicians at well over \$110,000 each, as well as the million dollar grounds maintenance cost per year subsequently associated with the new Civic Centre...I`m a little cynical about the justification and assertions for latest extraordinary IT expenditure proposal. I do not understand why this initiative needs full time with benefits business system software architects instead of contractees. These systems do require very expensive professionals, hopefully experienced with successful outcomes in other municipalities, but once built, could be maintained by less creative and expensive professionals. Once again it seems there appears to be little concern to control costs over the longer term as it is someone else's hard earned money at stake. And what if the efficiencies (ie reduced staffing and or costs) promised by Norah Prior for these MUST HAVES, never materialize....who is responsible for compensation to the tax payers of Guelph for the failed projections.

In conclusion, I have said a lot here....and I hope you have had the patience to read and respectfully appreciate, and are empathetic to, my concerns about runaway costs. There is a lot at stake, if the ongoing exponential growth in our taxes continues unabated as it becomes increasingly a moral and ethical question. It is clear that other levels of government, given their debt, can be relied upon to make up for cost overruns here in Guelph or any

other municipality for that matter(I know that many other Municipalities have expense issues as well).I don`t think any of us want to reach the point when the loss of substantial part of our middle class or local business`s, ability to pay taxes because of a broad based financial crises, leads to forced reduction in our critical basic services as a result of current indulgences in, ``nice to haves``, rather efficiently run basic services without excesses in compensation for our employees.

Sincerely

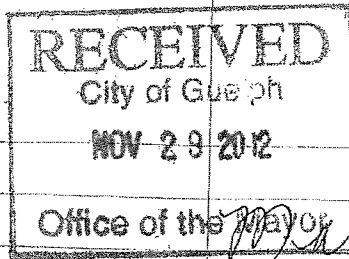
Brent Beam

From: Katherine Cochrane
Sent: November 29, 2012 9:51 AM
To: Clerks
Cc: Mayors Office
Subject: Eliminating sidewalk clearing service

Please forward this email to councillors.

A while back I believe there was a study or some meetings about making Guelph a better place to live for seniors. Forcing seniors to shovel and de-ice the sidewalk in front of their properties to save some money doesn't make Guelph a better place to live for them. Shoveling is difficult enough for some seniors, especially when the snow is wet and heavy. Lifting bags of salt or sand in and out of their cars to have to spread it around the sidewalk is quite a chore and really strenuous on one's back. There are probably alot of non-seniors that would find all that difficult. If Ms. Laidlaw feels there might be less need for clearing sidewalks because of global warming, then the sidewalk plow won't have to be used so frequently, thereby saving money as well. Her suggestion to hire a local teenager to clear it is just plain stupid and inconsiderate. With the increase in taxes, sewer and water, and probably hydro rates, where does she think that a senior on a fixed income would get the money to pay the teenager, who may not even be reliable? If councillors are willing to spend more money on school crossing guards and wasting money on an urban forestry plan (that includes trying to hopelessly save ash trees), then why shouldn't some money be set aside for sidewalk clearing? All citizens benefit from cleared sidewalks. In the south-end there are alot of streets with sidewalks on only one side so it is certainly not fair that the houses with the sidewalks should have to bear the responsibility of shoveling the sidewalk for all pedestrians even though they may be paying the same taxes as those across the street with no sidewalk. If someone falls down on the sidewalk in front of one's house because the ice didn't melt fast enough from the applied sand or salt, then the homeowner has to bear that burden of guilt and responsibility. If someone doesn't have a car, they don't need to shovel the driveway but they still are required to clear the sidewalk. I hope that council should reconsider it's proposal to eliminate city snow plowing of sidewalks in front of residences. Thank you.

Ross and Kathy Cochrane



November 24 / 12

Mayor Karen Fairbridge

The Guelph Mercury of November 20, much to my surprise, reads that the city might use the splash pads and Lyon Pool, written by Susan Hurrelly. How could you even think of such a thing? When our children were little they went to Exhibition Park wading pool and it was good, but these splash pads are priceless. Lyon Pool has been around for a long time and Susan Hurrelly really praises it also. No No No you can't use these things

It's like taking Santa Claus out
up to hristmas. How come so many
things are cut, are the city taxes not
high enough. I don't know what
can be done but you can't cut
almost everything. The skating
rink downtown is lovely but the
splash pads and Lyon Pool have to
stay. I would'nt hurt people to
pay a small amount of taxes to keep
our city lovely, especially for the
summer and for the happy children.

Sincerely

Mrs. Joan Smith

Submission from Mary DuQuesnay

Mayor Farbridge and members of City Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you regarding our grant request. As you may remember, we made a presentation last year at this time. Our request is for \$1.2 million to be paid over 3 years starting in 2013. We were cognisant of your pledges to the Guelph General and others in the community and so, rather than request support at a time when city dollars were already committed, we requested our grant to start when your other major commitments had ended. We will be focusing on a number of items at our presentation this evening but wished to supply you with more information than could be covered in our 5 minute presentation.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the attached materials.

St. Joseph's Health Centre, Guelph, - Long Range Plans

- to create a campus where seniors, frail elderly and individuals with disabilities can age-in-place, provided with a continuum of care, services and housing to support their well-being.
- to provide a variety of services, clinics and Day Programs that support the well being and independence of members of the community
- to deliver quality care for individuals requiring Rehabilitation, Complex Medical Care or Long Term Care

Over the past 3 years, St. Joseph's has been involved in two major building projects. The construction of our new North Wing included 96 additional long term care beds. As part of this construction one floor of an entire wing was devoted to our Day programs.

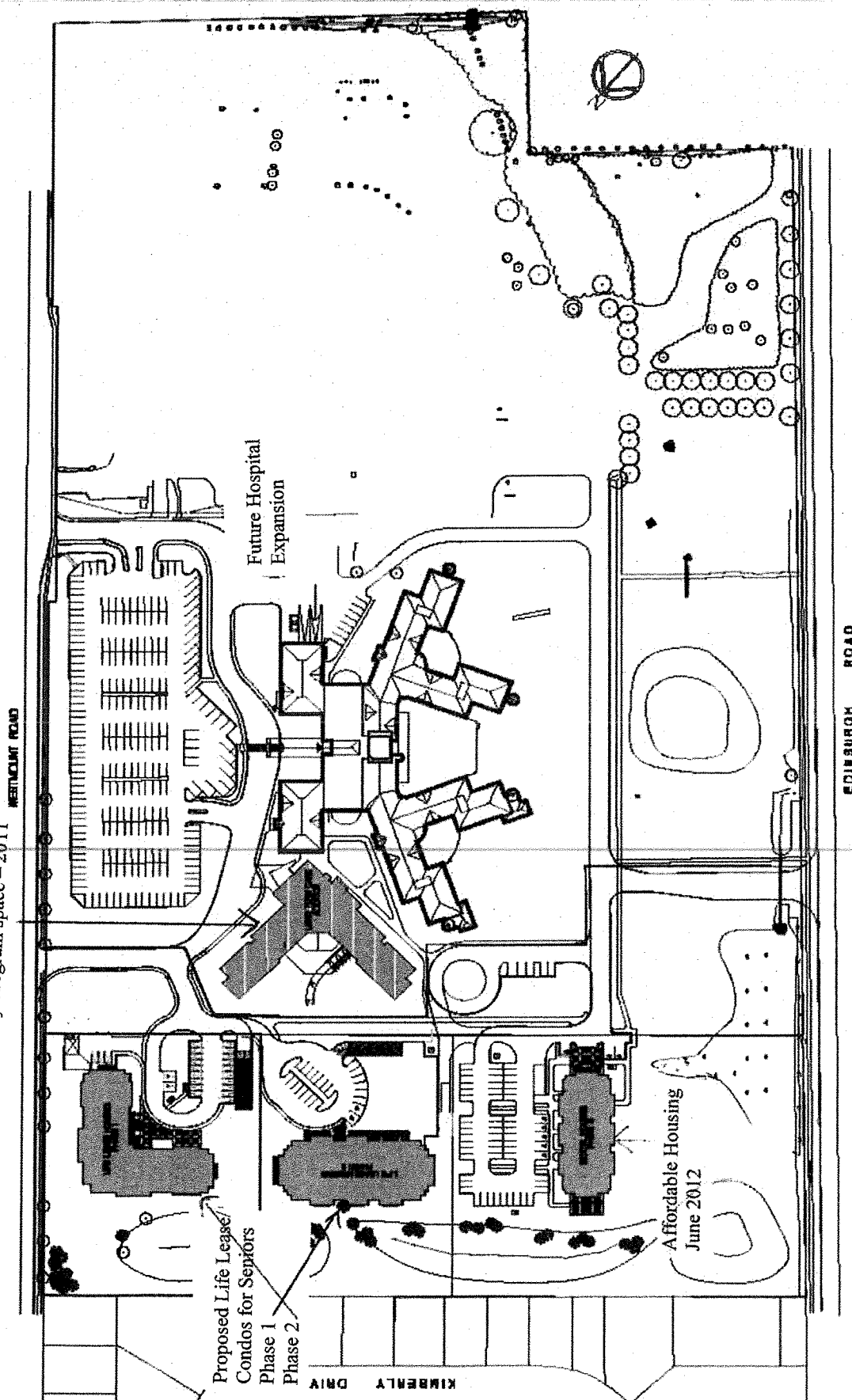
At the same time, we constructed an affordable housing apartment building for seniors, opened in June 2012.

While all the construction was taking place, a number of new programs and services were being developed to better serve the community and respond to changing health care needs.

The following pages give you a brief out line of some of the new programs here at St. Joseph's.

St. Joseph's Property 44 acre site

new long term care wing &
Day Program space - 2011



New Programs

- Ontario Telemedicine
- Multi Sensory stimulation
- Rehab Motion Garden
- Spin Fit – Spinal Cord Injury
- Behavioural Support for Long Term Care
- Stroke/Rehab Review
- Affordable Housing

Ontario Telemedicine

- Allows patients access to wide range of specialists without leaving the community
- A wide range of specialists from outside the region are accessible
- Particularly beneficial for older individuals for whom travel is difficult and/or confusing but is available to all community members
- Efficient use of health care dollars
- Appointments are booked through St. Joseph's

History of the Program

- In 2009, St. Joseph's became the region's telemedicine centre
 - 2012 St. Joe's became the lead organization for the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integrated Network Telemedicine Program
 - 12 additional telemedicine nurses were hired in 2012 to work throughout the WWLHIN to build capacity for the program and increase the number of sites across the region
-

- Patient with St. Joseph's specialized nurse being scanned with a scope. Image on the screen is seen by the specialist in real time. Specialist can speak to either the patient or the nurse to elicit as much information as needed.



Behavioural Support for Long Term Care

- 74% of individuals in LTC are rated at the second highest level of acuity meaning they require significant medical and personal support assistance
- 60-80% have some level of cognitive impairment
- Staffing levels have not changed for a number of years
- Provincially 43% of staff report violent behaviours on a daily basis. This can include biting, hitting, scratching, and verbal abuse
- St. Joseph's is the lead organization for the LHIN Behavioural Support Ontario program
- St. Joseph's will take the lead in developing competencies in order to hire behavioural support staff in our 35 LTC homes in the LHIN
- St. Joe's hired a community team consisting of social worker, occupational therapist, recreational therapist and intake worker to develop the protocols for the new program
- This team will work with retirement homes, hospitals and LTC homes
- St. Joe's is working on developing a behavioural support program within our new LTC wing
- One floor has been specially designed for clients with responsive behaviours
- Funding not currently available but we continue to lobby for this much needed program
- The need has been identified by all LTC facilities in the region and St. Joseph's has been asked to take the lead in this area.

Stroke/Rehabilitation Review

- Stroke/Rehabe review was a LHIN initiative to:
 1. Rethink delivery of rehab and complex care
 2. Improve quality of care
 3. Ensure best practice on all sites within the region
 4. Reduce the number of Alternative Level of Care beds
 5. Improve outcomes for stroke patients
- Terrie Dean, Senior Director of Clinical Services, St. Joseph's Health Centre, was one of the two leads for this major study

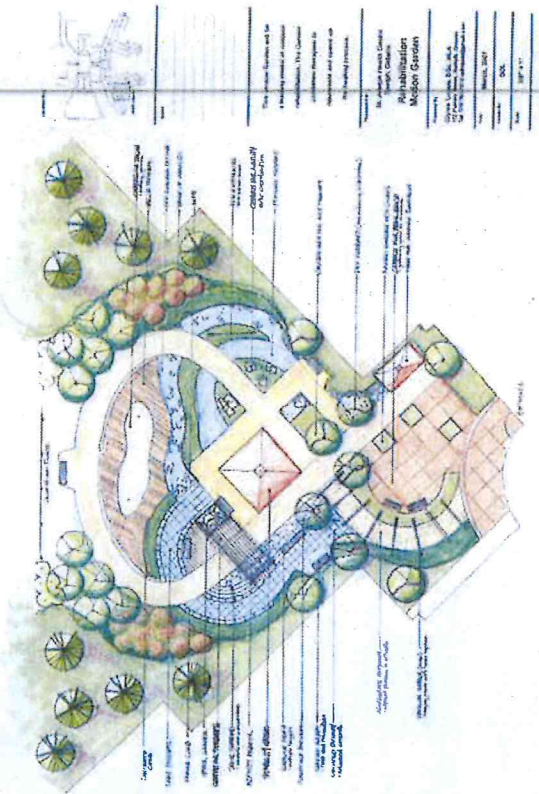
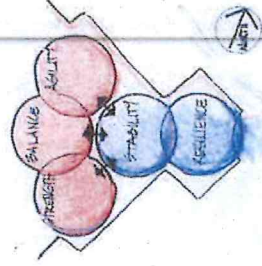
The final report from the study is expected to be published in February of 2013. It is expected to establish standardized stroke/rehabilitation care on all involved sites in the region.

Pearson Rehabilitation Motion Garden at St. Joseph's Health Centre, Guelph

Our Vision – to be an international model for patients and educators.

The Rehabilitation Motion Garden at St. Joseph's Health Centre is a unique sensory environment designed to be a leader in outdoor rehabilitation.

Using a team approach in occupational, physical, recreation, horticultural and speech therapies the Garden will take each patient through a comprehensive program to speed healing and catalyze recovery (beyond current expectations of an indoor rehabilitation environment).



Garden Design

The garden has been designed to:

- Meet the needs of the interdisciplinary team for functional assessment and treatment
- Allow for grading of activities across the rehabilitation continuum – from slow-stream rehabilitation to outpatient programs
- Be accessible throughout by wheelchair yet incorporate a wide range of challenges for ambulatory patients

Introduction

More than eighty percent of rehabilitation patients are being discharged home to the community from our inpatient rehabilitation programs. During their time in rehabilitation, patients traditionally practice or learn functional skills in a protected environment like a hospital room or a therapy gym. However, outside of the rehabilitation unit, patients face physical barriers that they do not have the opportunity to address prior to discharge. These barriers may impede their return to previous lifestyles and impact their independence within the community. The objectives of the garden are to catalyze patient recovery during the rehabilitation process, to promote a rapid return to community activity and to improve confidence levels.



Figure 1: The Pearson Motion Garden outside of the Inpatient Rehabilitation unit

Background

The idea of a rehabilitation garden began in 2006 growing from discussions among physiotherapy staff who were looking for a safe way to challenge their patients with slopes and outdoor surfaces. Collaboration with recreation and horticulture therapists, nursing staff, St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation and a landscape designer resulted in the formation of a Garden Design Committee. A broad consultative process was used to develop a comprehensive garden design that will meet the future needs of staff and programs facility-wide (see Figures 2 and 4).

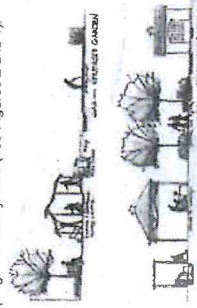


Figure 2: Drawing of patients doing exercises, golfing on the putting green, walking, learning in the gazebo and sitting enjoying the outdoors.

Surfaces:

The garden is anchored by an accessible figure eight path made of concrete/limestone screenings

More challenging loops include:

- Flagstone
- Patterned concrete
- Pea gravel
- Sand
- Mulch
- Stepping stones
- River rock
- Artificial turf

Features:

- Ramped area (slope as per building code)
- Two sets of stairs (6" rise/10" run and 5 1/2" rise/12" run)
- Raised and ground level garden beds
- Storage shed with workstation
- Putting green
- Activity arbour with shelving for open ended activities
- Activity posts (i.e. clothesline, bird feeders, hanging baskets)
- Central gazebo for gatherings and barbecues
- Space for a simulated car
- Plantings that will appeal to the five senses
- In-ground irrigation as well as access to hoses for watering
- Varied seating heights

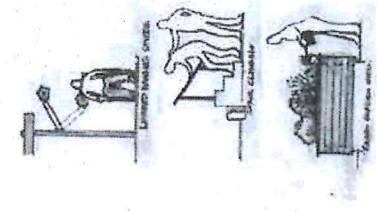


Figure 4: Illustration of patients watering raised beds, climbing stairs and tending to bird feeders

Pearson Motion Rehabilitation Garden as of July 20th, 2012



Spin Fit Program

- Spin Fit is a specialty program for individuals with spinal cord injuries
- Since Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in individuals with spinal cord injuries, cardio exercise is critically important to this population
- Regular gyms cannot accommodate persons with spinal cord injuries or other mobility restrictions due to the special needs.
- Spin Fit is a new program run voluntarily by St. Joe's rehabilitation staff and U of G volunteers
- Spin Fit removes barriers to fitness. The program consists of:
 - 45 min arm spin class
 - 45 minute strengthening sessions tailored to each individual

No Ministry of Health funding is currently available for this much needed program

"this program is fantastic. Since joining SpinFit, I've increased my mobility and improved my health. But that does not begin to say how great the inspiration that we get from each other is and how the supportive atmosphere affects our outlook. I haven't seen anything like it anywhere else. " quote from participant



Affordable Housing

- Affordable, safe housing is a major determinant of good health especially for older adults
- only 149 affordable rental housing units were created in Wellington County and Guelph between 2003 -2010
- about 40% of households in Guelph and area are paying more than 30% of their income as rent; this represents 1 in every 2.5 tenant households, double the provincial average of 1 in every 5;

- **What did we build**

- 80- 1 and 2-bedroom apartment units
 - 6-storey concrete structure with stucco façade
 - ground floor resident amenity rooms and spaces for delivery of assisted-living services
 - a dining room with servery
 - resident common room
 - support service offices
 - resident lounge
 - management office
-
- all amenity areas and floors are fully handicapped accessible
 - 8 fully handicapped accessible units –
 - 8 modified units

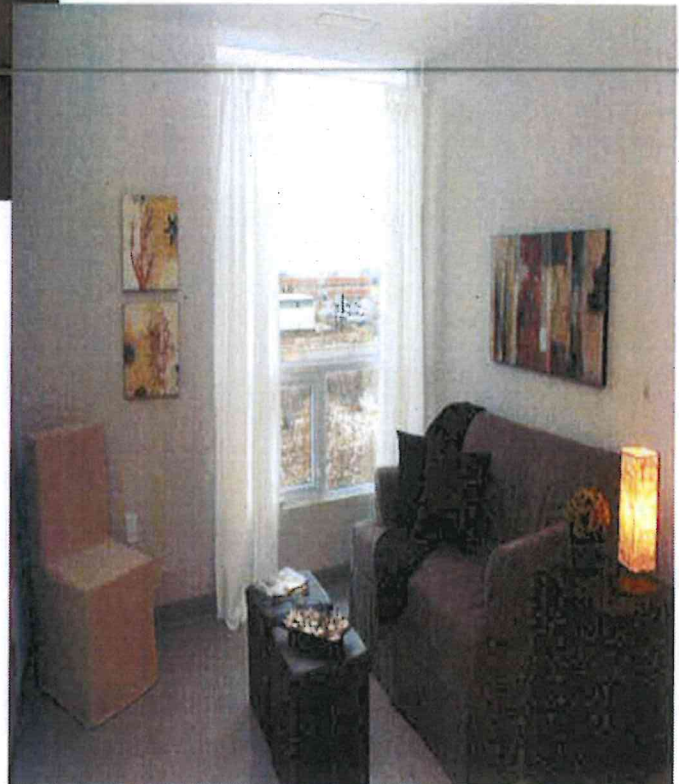
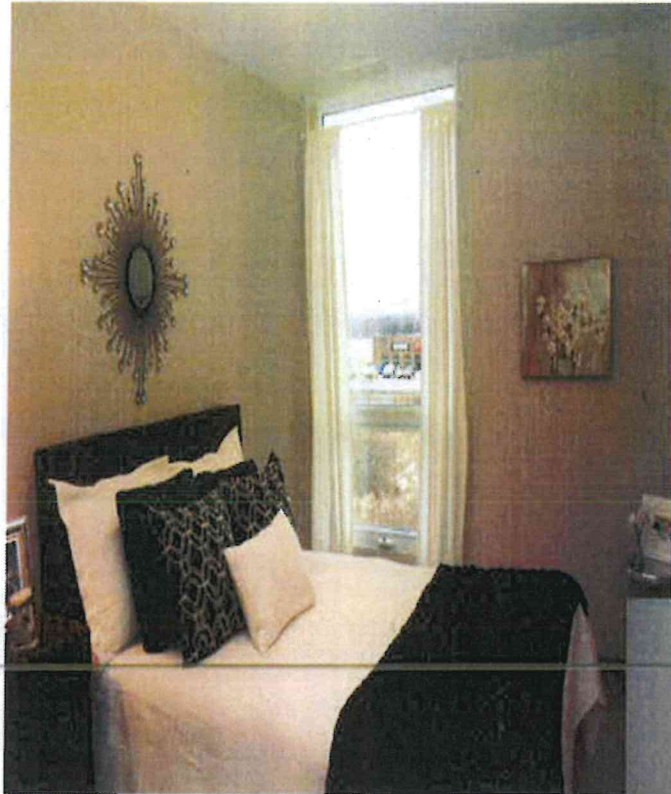
- **Official Opening, June 2012**

- Currently All units are occupied and we have a wait list

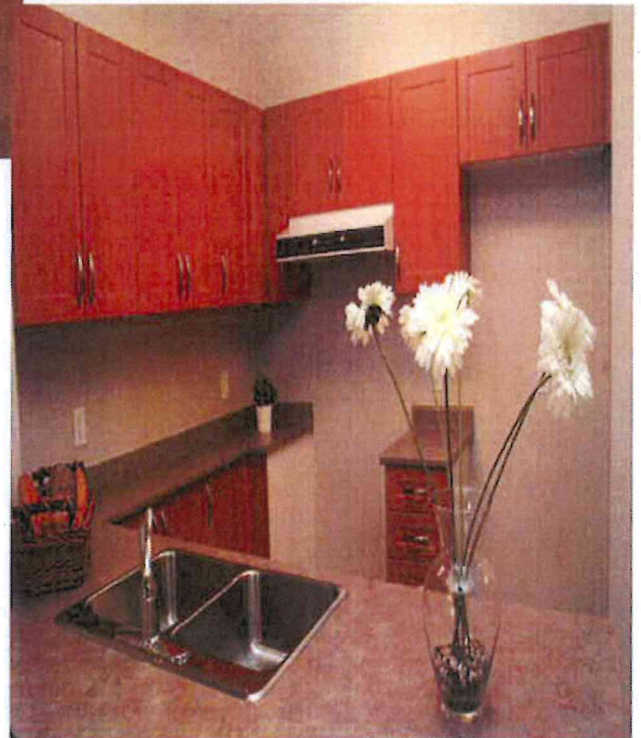
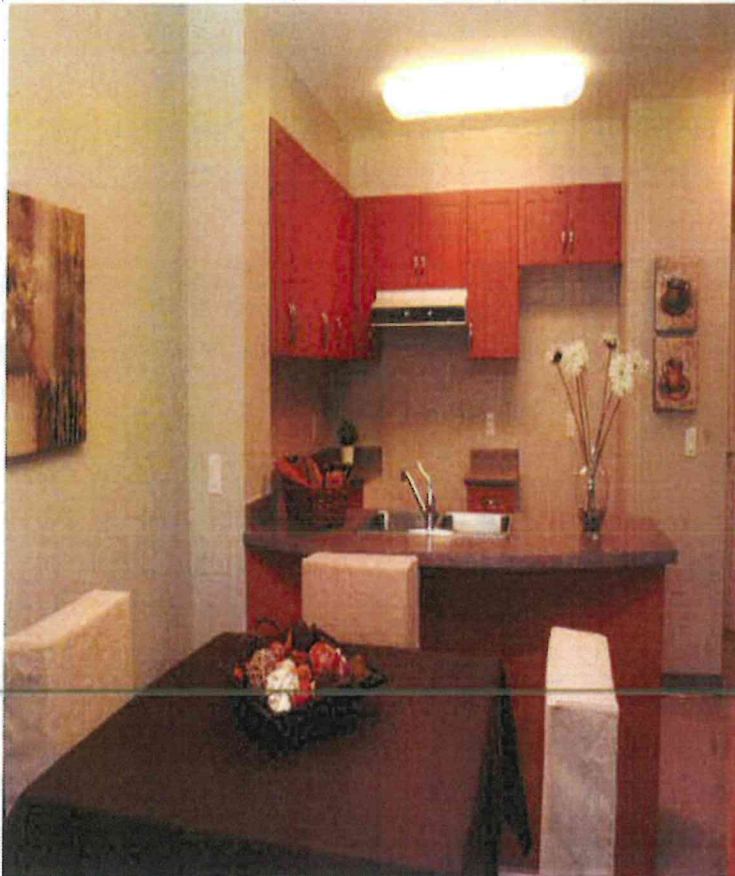
The Residence of St. Joseph's – Affordable Housing
opened June, 2012 Side view facing Edinburgh Rd



Affordable housing bedroom and living room



Affordable housing kitchen, opened June 2012



Cycling Petition
Submitted by Donna Jennison

We, the undersigned, current residents of Guelph, request that 5% of the current road budget be allocated to develop and promote safe cycling in the city: Cycle superhighways that lead people safely to schools, work, shopping and recreational trails. Such support could include; an expanded and well maintained network of bike lanes including protected bike lanes, dedicated bicycle signals and exclusive signal phasing, bicycle boxes and two-stage left turn queue boxes and bike parking posts/stations and shelters.

These objectives are in accordance with the newly updated Official Plan which states the following "8.2 Transportation System Objectives: (c) To implement programs to facilitate and encourage greater and safer use of the bicycle as a mode of transport.

106 Signatures received

Save Our Sidewalks!

Keeping Sidewalk Winter Control in the Budget



Dr. Bill Gardner
Ward 1 Resident
29-Nov-2012

What is the taxpayer's cost for "SWC"? Sidewalk Winter Control

- 2013 PROPOSED TAX LEVY \$186,123,814
- ADDED COST OF SWC \$ 100,000
- SWC AS % OF TOTAL LEVY 0.054%

- MY TAX IN 2012 \$2872 (single family detached)
- WITH 5% HIKE \$3016

- MY TAX ATTRIBUTABLE TO SWC \$1.62

- MY COST TO *RETAIN* SWC IN BUDGET +\$0.07

CONCLUSION:

- Sidewalk Winter Control is a FABULOUS value re service per tax dollar!
- **Impossible** for residents to replace at this price, whether hiring someone or costing out our own time.

Avoid triggering blizzard of new problems

Who will have trouble complying with shoveling own walks?

- Temporary (ill, injured) or long-term infirm
- In my near neighbourhood alone...
 - 6 elderly
 - 2 heart patients
 - 1 disabled
- Will we need a new, elaborate, expensive bureaucracy for delivering assistance on a piecemeal basis?
- Are we ever allowed to LEAVE TOWN anytime during the winter for fear of snowfall??
 - How can I meet my statutory obligation when I'm away?

Someone may ask, "You're handling your **driveway** now; is it so much trouble to just add the sidewalk??"

3

Why is clearing my driveway DIFFERENT?

- I am FREE to clear it IF, WHEN, and HOW I choose
 - Have eye on available time, appointments, weight of snow, temperature, weather forecast, etc.
 - I would lose that FREEDOM concerning the sidewalk
 - I'm willing to pay MUCH MORE than \$1.62 for the
 - FREEDOM from a NEW BURDEN
 - CONVENIENCE
 - LACK OF STRAIN (at 60+ yrs)

Respond to quote from a city official...

4

Derek McCaughan quote

- "If we can get residents to do it, it would be **much quicker** and **more efficient**" (Tribune, Nov. 27)

This is wishful thinking!

- Yes, **SOME** residents will likely clear their sidewalks quickly
- Many will not
- Result → patchwork of cleared vs. icy/snowy sidewalks
- Windfall for bylaw enforcement officers!
- Lots of angry residents getting fined!
- *No one* can do it as "efficiently" as spending ~\$2 for all winter!

5

Keep Sidewalk Winter Control in the budget!

- In terms of **VALUE** for tax dollars, this must be one of the all-time **winners** and **no-brainers**!

KEEP it this year!

KEEP it *EVERY* year!



"Your tax dollars at work"

All two of them!

