- ADDENDUM -

- GUELPH CITY COUNCIL MEETING -

- December 8, 2009 -

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DELEGATIONS

- Galen Fick on behalf of the Undergraduates & Students of University of Guelph
- Paul Visschedyk on behalf of the Alzheimer Society of Guelph-Wellington
- Nikolas Trutiak on behalf of the Graduate Students Association of University of Guelph
- Chris Morrison

The following delegations have withdrawn their request to address Council:
  - Guelph Civic League
  - Michele Altermann on behalf of Parkwood Gardens Neighbourhood Group
  - John Newstead

Correspondence:
  - Jeff Busiman
  - Lou Maieron
  - Paul Visschedyk, Alzheimer Society of Guelph-Wellington
  - Chris Morrison
  - Ron MacKinnon, Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination
  - Marcel D. Villeneuve
  - Stephen Pierce, Guelph Chamber Choir
  - Annie O’Donoghue, President, Guelph Civic League
December 14, 2009

Dear City of Guelph Council:

We are representing four Churches (Parkwood Gardens, Three Willows United, Grace Community and New Life CRC) that work closely with 4 vulnerable neighbourhood groups in Guelph. (Brant, Waverly, Parkwood Gardens, Willow West). A key component of the ministries of these Churches is to be able to reach the needy and to know what their needs are. The neighbourhood group and the Community Development worker within these communities give us extremely good advice, wisdom and direction – therefore making our actions very effective. They tell us what the immediate needs are (like specific food or school supplies or winter clothes). They also lead us to those that can use the instructional cooking at a collective kitchen. They help identify the children who could really use some tutoring.

We see, first hand, the incredibly effective impact that the Neighbourhood Group and Community Development worker provide in these vulnerable neighbourhoods. They assist in job application forms. They address lack of food situations. They design and implement community activities like the planting box program. They work on getting better park facilities.

The neighbourhood groups build community, strengthen individuals and families, and ensure healthy growth and development for every child. These activities benefit the City of Guelph and the Province of Ontario in terms of preventing serious problems and reducing costs. This might be considered “prevention-type” work, but it saves in policing, welfare, child-protection, health and education costs.

We are asking the City of Guelph to continue the financing of the neighbourhood groups and to provide temporary funding for the Community Development worker program due to the Provincial Government cuts. Funding for 2 years is required while the neighbourhood groups implement a strategy of shared and alternative funding. Even if the City can contribute 6 months of the Community Development program costs (Current annual cost is $310,000) – this would be a great help.

Your staff recommend that the Neighbourhood Group funding continues. Family and Children Services recommend that the Community Development Worker program continues. We, as Churches, concur with their recommendations and we ask the City to finance these programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Jeff Buisman
Parkwood Gardens Church
Grace Community Church
Three Willows United Church
New Life Christian Reformed Church
City of Guelph Budget Recommendation Meeting

"No Increase in Ambulance Service for the Town of Erin Residents"

City of Guelph Mayor and Councillors:

Please allow me to provide some background information prior to my appearing as a delegation regarding improved Erin ambulance service on Tuesday December 8th, 2009 as 5 minutes will not be enough to share all this background information with you.

To start with, please allow me to point out the obvious fact that no Erin resident has ever voted for any City of Guelph Councillor or Mayor. They have voted for their own representatives who have an obligation to assure their residents that they are indeed getting good value for money spent, in the provision of adequate ambulance service from Guelph, which unfortunately is not the case presently.

While the Erin community recognizes that the Province of Ontario has appointed the City of Guelph to be the ambulance service provider for both the City of Guelph and the County of Wellington, we can agree and acknowledge that for at least the past 4 years, the facts clearly demonstrate that there are serious deficiencies in ambulance service provided by Guelph EMS in not meeting the provincially mandated response times for Erin residents. Earlier this year all City Councillors were sent an email regarding an ambulance incident where adequate service was not provided, leading to a tragedy and how the provincial court system is being involved to assign blame and costs.

The City of Guelph as ambulance provider cannot continue to expect to receive funding for ambulance service from Erin taxpayers and expect us to be reliant on the kindness of other municipalities to provide 85-90% of ambulance service at their own cost, even in a seamless system, when these other municipalities receive no financial support from Erin property taxpayers. The ambulance responsibility lies with the City of Guelph as the service provider, not Halton or Peel Region or Dufferin County.

CHRONOLOGY of ACTIONS..... taken to try to remedy this deficiency

Please see attachment #2 (2 pages), which identifies the ambulance coverage areas, this pulled from your September ambulance report. The majority of the calls are in the villages of Hillsburgh and Erin and in the south-eastern countryside, unfortunately for us the furthest from Guelph. As is obvious from the map, Erin and Hillsburgh comprise what I have termed to be the hole in the doughnut of ambulance service. The closest coverage is coming from Peel, Halton and Dufferin. From the Guelph EMS perspective there is NO COVERAGE in the Town of Erin as per the coverage area’s shown. So what ambulance service are my taxpayers receiving for their annual contribution of $400,000.00 to Guelph EMS each year? VERY LITTLE.

Following my report to the ambulance committee 4 years ago, demonstrating that Erin received very little in ambulance service from its provider, which was independently supported by your own study, the first recommendation from your report was to place a roving paramedic unit in Erin. A few years ago at budget time, your Council turned down
that recommendation. The first in a long series of budget turn downs when it comes to improving Erin’s ambulance service

Then the committee tried to change, manipulate the areas of coverage so that Erin would get some ambulance coverage from the current system in place. This did not prove successful, Erin’s times did not improve dramatically but where the shift had occurred response times had decreased considerably. This course of action was abandoned - so much for that plan. This demonstrated that an ambulance needed to be added to improve the effectiveness and efficiencies of the overall service.

Then pursuant to another delegation led by me to the Ambulance committee, Mayor Farbridge understanding my concerns suggested that an ambulance be shifted from the west side of Guelph to be located in Rockwood for a 6 month trial period, this to determine how and if this would improve ambulance response times in Erin. It seemed at the time to be a reasonable step forward in resolving the problem. However, as far as I understand, prior to the results of the PILOT being made publically available, Guelph locked in with the Township of Guelph Eramosa for a ten year period, we read about this in the Wellington Advertiser. When the results of the study are made public, we find that Erin’s response times only improved by 55 sec and are, on the 90th percentile average, 23 minutes and 23 sec - over 50% above the provincial standard of 14 -15 minutes. Furthermore Guelph Eramosa times improve by 2 minutes but were never substandard to begin with, so why place an ambulance there? But the most fascinating statistic of all, is that the Rockwood ambulance spends about 80-85% of its time servicing Guelph residents and the 10 year lock in prevents it from being moved further east to Ospringe or Hillsburgh or the village of Erin to improve times for Erin residents. Isn't this convenient? So the Rockwood ambulance is locked in for 10 years to benefit primarily Guelph residents, which was not the purpose of the pilot at all. Some of us do not think this to be very open, transparent nor accountable, not for Erin taxpayers anyways.

Furthermore this action by Guelph with a lower tier municipality I believe circumvents the ambulance committee and arrives there as a fait accompli..... which does not comply with the City of Guelph’s own Land Ambulance Committee Mandate and Charter attached for your convenience in particularly .... operating principals (Section V) and other sections. I could include correspondences sent to your Mayor indicating my concerns for locating an ambulance in Rockwood and locking in for 10 years prior to the pilot information and data being made public, but I think I have made my point. I guess it is important to keep your city taxpayers happy with that 8 -10 minute average response time, you are politically accountable to them.

Then in the May 2009 ambulance meeting, Guelph EMS makes a recommendation to place an ambulance in Erin, 12 hours a day, 7 days per week. This is very much similar to what was done to improve Mapleton’s poor response times a few years previous.... a precedent. Surprisingly there is no quorum for this ambulance committee meeting in May and the meeting was cancelled, however the report with the recommendation is on the website and the Mercury’s Scott Tracey writes it up and community expectations are again elevated. I could not find this Guelph EMS report/recommendation on the City's website today or I would have included a copy for your convenience. Perhaps your staff can find and provide you with a copy, it appears to have gone missing?. What is truly amazing is that whereas there was no quorum for the ambulance committee that month, only a few minutes later
there was a quorum for the joint social services committee.... same membership on both committee’s ..... amazing... so what happened? Perhaps another council is up to its own brand of shenanigans.... wait the plot thickens.

Without a meeting, the Guelph EMS recommendations were not discussed nor approved in May, the ambulance for Erin had a start date of July 1, 2009, but no money allocated in the report to implement that start date. Then there was a special, I call it a secret meeting called by the City of Guelph, from the County they only invite the Warden and the Mayor of Erin. I as the County of Wellington Councillor (same status as a Mayor in the County) and champion of this cause did not get an invite, nor does even your own chairman of the ambulance committee Leanne Piper ....SHAME SHAME SHAME....more shenanigans perhaps. The Warden did not attend, on the Guelph side I suspect there’s the Mayor, CAO and solicitor perhaps more .....poor Mayor Finnie was on his own, by his own choice, and we read about it in the Erin Advocate that “Guelph nixes Erin’s ambulance”. For myself and the ambulance committee this is likely the first time that we heard about it and that this special meeting was called. I am not sure who attended as I have asked for minutes to this special.... secret meeting, numerous times but never received any response. Again clearly in violation to the City’s own Land Ambulance Committee Mandate and Charter in a number of area’s particularly Operating Principal, section (v) “Committee expectations and information needs” Which reads:

*Meeting minutes will be recorded and distributed to committee members with each meeting agenda.*

*Any discussions that lead to the formulation of recommendations for Council consideration will take place at the Committee meetings ONLY and not through electronic or other outside exchanges.*

*All pertinent information will be shared with committee members in advance of meetings. This can include, but not be limited to, meeting minutes, any supplemental information, public input, media requests etc.*

Certainly your own mandate and charter was not adhered to, there was a special secret meeting, there are no minutes, the Erin ambulance is cancelled, the new proposal is to have volunteer fire fighters provide respond to emergency calls in advance of poor ambulance response times and this all comes as another “fait accompli” to the next ambulance committee meeting. Meanwhile, Erin residents and taxpayers continue to ask what are we paying the City of Guelph $400,000.00 for ambulance service when they tell us have your volunteer fire department be first responder.... that does not get anyone in a life threatening emergency to a hospital any faster and fire fighters are not level 2 paramedic’s who can dispense life saving drugs.

Motivated by this, I led yet another delegation to the ambulance committee with a couple of Town of Erin Councillors in tow and a few concerned residents. I am allowed the privilege to speak and suggest to the committee that just because the May ambulance committee meeting was cancelled, does not mean that the Guelph EMS, Erin ambulance recommendation report disappears.... they agree, it will be dealt with in September 2009.

In the September 2009 meeting, 3 delegations from the Town of Erin appear. The first
motion proposed is to implement the recommendation, seeing that Mayor Farbridge will not support, Councillor Whitcombe skillfully alters the recommendation as per Mayor Farbridge's request so to read, that "the Erin ambulance recommendation will go to the City of Guelph's budget process for consideration" and this passes. Many of us walk away from this meeting thinking and hoping that this is not yet another City of Guelph stall tactic, but even the Guelph Mercury editorial of the next day comes up with the same conclusion ... attached for your convenience.

SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The arbitrator's report has not been delivered yet so I find it surprising that City Councillors would proceed in this manner not knowing what the arbitrator's report states.

While this is your budget process, the Ambulance pool of money is there to provide all that contribute the minimum provincially mandated service. So far every thing that has been tried to improve Erin ambulance service times has failed miserably, so what are you planning to do now to bring Erin residents and taxpayers up to the provincial standard? If you are not going to fund the 57% of the anticipated $410,000.00 or $233,700.00 to provide 12 hour service, then the only fair thing that can be done is to reduce service to areas which have better times so to balance out and improve service to areas that have the poorest times.... there must be equity since all pay...some by higher assessment pay more than others, eg Erin. From the $400,000.00 we send annually there is a surplus of about $167,000.00 which must be supplementing service to other area's of the ambulance service and still you do not want to provide Erin residents with the minimum level of 12 hours/day, seven days per week and expect us to be reliant on the kindness of other municipalities for service. Is this a joke?

I look forward at tomorrow's meeting to hearing new ideas from your Mayor and Council as to how you suggest we should deal with this service shortage you are forcing Erin residents and taxpayers to accept, even though we amply pay Guelph for ambulance service. This has been ongoing for many years, causing a lack of community confidence that the City of Guelph will do right by Erin taxpayers. I will stand by my comments as reported in the Mercury, copy attached and will elaborate on Tuesday my plan on how to be responsive and responsible to the residents and taxpayers of the County, in particular those of Erin who elected me to represent them.

To endorse your own Mayor's election openness, transparency and accountability platform, I will be sharing this back grounder and Tuesday's verbal submission with the appropriate provincial ministers.

Sincerely

[Signature]

Lou Maieron, County of Wellington Councillor
Attachment #2 - Identifies ambulance call volumes in existing coverage areas including the Town of Erin.
Attachment #2 - Identifies ambulance call volumes in existing coverage areas including the Town of Erin.

Erin Township Call Distribution 2008 = 618

Data Source: MOHLTC ADDAS
Code 3 and 4 Response: Valid T4
Tier 737 All Services
6/1/2009
Committee Mandate and Charter
Land Ambulance

A. Mandate for the Land Ambulance Committee

1. Mandate
The Committee’s Mandate defines its core areas of management and responsibility.

Established by Procedural Bylaw (1996) 15200 for Standing Committees, it is the mandate of the Land Ambulance Committee to ensure that appropriate policies, principles and procedures are established to guide and enhance:

I. To ensure that land ambulance services are provided as effectively and efficiently as possible within the City of Guelph and County of Wellington, in line with the basic principles established by the Province of Ontario, which include:
   a. Accessibility
   b. Integration
   c. Seamlessness
   d. Accountability
   e. Responsiveness

II. To deal with policy and significant operational matters, and make recommendations to Guelph City Council on same.

III. To receive updates and presentations on financial matters, including variance reports, operating and capital budgets.

2. Composition of the Committee
I. The Committee is comprised of three members of Guelph City Council and the Mayor, and three members of Wellington County Council and the Warden.

II. Chairing of the Land Ambulance Committee will alternate between the City and the County on an annual basis.

III. Additional staff members or specialists may be called upon to conduct research, communications or any other Committee identified requirements.

B. Committee Charter
The Committee’s Charter outlines how the committee will satisfy the requirements set forth by Council in its Mandate. This Charter comprises:

- Operating principles
- Responsibilities and duties
- Operating procedures
I. Operating Principles

All Committee work will be carried out in accordance with provisions of the Municipal Act and the Committee shall fulfill its responsibilities within the context of the following principles:

i. Committee Values

The City Council's Code of Conduct, transparency and accountability will guide Committee efforts and promote interaction with the highest ethical standards and professionalism while ensuring that the best interests of the community are met. The Council-endorsed corporate values of wellness, integrity and excellence will also be observed. Committee members from the County will observe and be governed by their respective values.

ii. Communications

The Committee Chair will act as the primary spokesperson for any inquiries.

iii. Meeting Agenda

The Director of Emergency Services will consult with the Chair of the Committee in preparing committee agendas.

iv. Notice of Meetings

Public notice of all committee meetings will be provided on the City's electronic general calendar at least 72 hours prior to a meeting; by posting a notice in City Hall at least 72 hours prior to the meeting; and by publication in a local paper at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

It is recognized that some items consistent with Section 239 in the Municipal Act may require a meeting to be closed to the public. The holding of any closed meetings and the general nature of the matter to be considered will be made public to ensure full transparency.

v. Committee Expectations and Information Needs

Meeting minutes will be recorded and distributed to Committee members with each meeting agenda.

Any discussions that lead to the formulation of recommendations for Council consideration will take place at the Committee meetings only and not through electronic or other outside exchanges.

All pertinent information will be shared with all Committee members in advance of meetings. This can include, but not be limited to, meeting minutes, any supplemental information, public input, media requests etc.

vi. Reporting to City Council

The Committee will report to City Council with recommendations for approval.

Committee Charter
January 2009
II. Responsibilities and Duties
Specific roles and responsibilities for the Committee as a whole, Chair and Committee members include:

Committee:

1. To make recommendations for the consideration of Guelph City Council with respect to land ambulance matters.
2. To receive statistical and financial reports regarding land ambulance service.
3. To annually review the governance and accountability framework.

Committee and Council Effectiveness

Chair:
- To maintain order and decorum during meetings, decide questions of procedure, and generally ensure that the committee work proceeds smoothly according to the committee’s mandate;
- To ensure that adequate and appropriate opportunities are provided for input by the public and other key stakeholders at meetings;
- To engage all members in the decision making process.

Committee members:
- To read all agenda material, and seek clarification on any matters prior to meetings in order to make the most effective use of the committee’s time;
- To attend meetings and participate fully in all committee work;
- To debate the issues in an open, honest and informed manner to assist the decision-making process;
- To actively contribute to reaching committee recommendations and directions;
- To represent and advocate on behalf of constituents, keeping in mind the entire municipality when considering and addressing issues.

III. Operating Procedures
i. The Committee shall meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 12 noon.
ii. A quorum shall be a majority of the whole committee (5).
iii. Meeting minutes will be provided to each member of the committee as part of the agenda for meetings.
iv. The Chair of the Committee shall establish regular meeting dates and be responsible for calling the meetings.
v. Any rule not stated herein is deemed to be provided in By-law 1996-15200 Consolidate Procedural By-law.

vi. The Chair, may at their discretion, exercise their right to vote at any time.

vii. The location of the meetings shall alternate between City and County facilities.
Erin needs better service

It looks like there may be progress in the effort to reduce ambulance response wait times in Erin.

But a few months should tell whether what looked like progress this week only amounted to a political delay tactic on this file. That will be clear when Guelph city council decides whether to approve its potential share of a $175,000 one-time capital cost and its portion of a possible $425,000 new annual cost to set-up and staff an ambulance in the community. That is to be part of the municipality's 2010 budget deliberations.

The need for improved emergency response times is clear and has been established for years. People wait much longer on average for ambulances to respond in Erin and area than elsewhere in Wellington County — particularly the city of Guelph. They wait in the range of 25 minutes and the province's mandated response time is 14 minutes and 55 seconds.

What's unclear is how to address that — or perhaps more precisely how to afford to address that.

A city report earlier this year spelled out the acid-ambulance fix. It was offered in a matter-of-fact document that intimated it was the right thing to do — at last. But that proposition was buried before it was to be publicly debated, ostensibly because its cost took stakeholders within the City of Guelph and Wellington County by surprise.

Members of the city-county joint land ambulance committee revived that solution this week. But it took elegant finessing in the wording of a resolution so as to live to see a day where Guelph council will consider it.

An alternative plan is to see volunteer fire crews dispatched without delay to medical calls in the Erin area as well. That might address the on-paper problem of the response time gap. But it won't offer the same service as is provided by land ambulance and will be rightly perceived locally as a more economic and politically expedient Band-Aid.

We'll see what sort of ride the Erin ambulance gets by Guelph council.
Erin still waiting for an ambulance

THE GUELPH MERCURY

Erin residents are likely confused about what became of a public report this spring that recommended it receive a staffed ambulance facility in or near the community.

The recommendation was made as a possible strategy to reduce ambulance response times in the area.

Local residents and leaders have long complained about such response times. They average in the 23-minute range. That’s more than 10 minutes longer than the provincially mandated time.

The report was to be considered in May at a committee meeting of Guelph and Wellington County councillors. But the meeting was rescheduled and a public discussion of the issue — let alone the report — now seems on the shelf until at least September.

The May report’s recommendation would have required a one-time capital cost of $175,000 and new annual spending of $69,000.

At least a portion of the reason for the report and the issue falling off the county-city to-do list relates to the cost of this proposed remedy. Guelph Mayor Karen Farbridge said this week there are “a lot of ways to come at this issue” and that financial considerations relating to them must be weighted.

It’s unclear what other ways beyond that outlined in this seemingly sent-back-to-the-drawing-board report are on the table.

Erin Mayor Rod Finnie said this week city stakeholders are the ones opposed to the plan to place an ambulance in or near Erin.

Given that the city pays for 57 per cent of the ambulance services in Wellington County, one can surmise why it might flag financial considerations of the proposed fix and seek other — and likely more economical — options.

What isn’t going away while other options and/or funds are being sought is the underserviced ambulance problem for Erin and area residents.

They are living without a level of critical and emergency public service that they have the right to expect as Ontario residents.

Area leaders wonder whether it will take someone dying unnecessarily before this matter is resolved.

Let’s hope that’s not the case.
Guelph Mercury

Expanded Erin ambulance service not in the cards for 2010

Scott Tracey
stracey@guelphmercury.com

GUELPH — There are no plans to expand ambulance service in the eastern part of Wellington County, city officials said this week in revealing their proposed 2010 budget.

The expanded service, aimed mainly at addressing long wait times in the Town of Erin, is on a list of more than two dozen new service items city staff is specifically not recommending for consideration next year. The expansion would relate to an additional $410,800 on next year’s operating budget.

Even without those two dozen expansion items, city councillors are wrestling with a potential 9.2 per cent tax hike in 2010.

Given the looming financial challenges associated with next year’s budget, word went out to city staff months ago to hold the line at 2009 service levels.

Erin officials have been lobbying for several years for additional service in their town, where residents routinely wait more than 23 minutes for an ambulance; well in excess of the province’s mandated response time of 14 minutes and 55 seconds.

At a September meeting of the joint city-county land ambulance committee, members gave tentative approval to a plan that would see a staffed ambulance stationed in or near Erin for 12 hours each day.

At the time, county officials on the committee wanted to immediately implement the expanded service, but city officials balked and said they would only support the beefed-up service in principle if it was referred to each municipality’s respective 2010 budget deliberations.

This week, Guelph chief administrator Hans Loewig said the expanded ambulance service was treated the same as the other items on that list, including the purchase of a fuel truck and creation of several new staff positions.

"It’s a new service that’s not being provided right now and we’ve recommended that it be deferred into future years," Loewig said.

Wellington County Coun. Lou Maieron, who has lobbied for better ambulance service the past four years, said he is not surprised city officials are leaving it on the cutting-room floor.

"That’s what I expected to happen," said Maieron, who represents Erin at the county
level.

Maieron notes Erin pays $400,000 annually for ambulance service.

"If I was the mayor (of Erin) I wouldn't give them a cent because we're not getting value for our money," he said.

"We contribute more than enough to get service and we're not getting service," he added.

In summer 2008, an ambulance was positioned at the Rockwood fire hall to see if it would have an impact on wait times in the eastern part of the county.

But Maieron is critical the city signed a 10-year lease agreement with the Township of Guelph-Eramosa last December "before they even knew whether it was having an impact on response times."

Maieron said the Rockwood ambulance spends much of its time on standby in Guelph, and has had minimal impact on the service level in Erin.

Erin Mayor Rod Finnie was out of town Thursday and could not be reached for comment.

http://news.guelphmercury.com/article/567232
December 4 2009

**Attn: Her Worship K. Farbridge, Guelph City Council**

The Alzheimer Society of Guelph - Wellington has been serving residents of Guelph and Wellington County since 1980. Our mission to alleviate the personal and social consequences of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia is fulfilled through the facilitation of numerous Caregiver and Early Stage Support Groups. We also provide access to the national wandering registry, Safely Home and ongoing public and 1:1 education to over 1000 families in our community.

The Alzheimer Society of Guelph - Wellington is located at 111 MacDonell St. As such, the families who utilize our services have benefited significantly since the implementation of the 2 hour free parking program. Many of the individuals involved in our programming are on fixed incomes and as such, we place priority on offering all of our programs at no cost. The 2 hour free parking program has reduced one of the barriers to individuals accessing our programs and has resulted in the development of supportive relationship between the Alzheimer Society staff and individuals in need.

In addition, we rely on community members to support our society through donations and involvement in a variety of fundraising initiatives. Many of these individuals drop in to the office for short periods of time and we have heard many positive comments on the 2 hour free parking model.

Accessibility of our services to all in need is important to us at the Alzheimer Society of Guelph – Wellington. We have observed that the 2 hour free parking model has supported this goal and we urge the members of Guelph City Council to maintain this program for years to come.

Sincerely,

Paul Visschedyk
Executive Director
Alzheimer Society of Guelph-Wellington

cc: Board of Directors – Alzheimer Society of Guelph-Wellington
December 8th, 2009

2010 City of Guelph Budget Meeting

To the Mayor and Council Members:

On behalf of the Guelph Community at large,

Many of the cost cutting measures which will impact our community adversely may be avoided by deferring further development of projects such as the HCBP and re-allocating the funds. Contractual obligations and Cost Sharing Agreements not withstanding, this deferment would greatly assist Council in addressing the challenges of this budget.

You will be asked to consider the following proposed cuts and delays, among many others:

<p>| 2010 City of Guelph Budget Review |</p>
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<th>PROPOSED CUTS</th>
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<td>Community Services Youth Rental Rates</td>
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<td>Transit Fare Increase</td>
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<td>Eliminate Statutory Holiday Transit</td>
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<td>Reset Student Transit Fare Categories</td>
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<td>Eliminate Summer Day Camps</td>
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<td>Delay East End Library Opening</td>
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1,562,547.00
You will be asked to consider the following additional cuts and service reductions among others:

**Optional Cuts**

- Close Centennial Pool: 147,248.00
- Close Lyons Pool: 42,396.00
- Close Centennial Arena: 123,974.00
- Eliminate Evergreen Seniors Dining Program: 88,800.00
- Eliminate John Galt Day Event: 10,000.00
- Transit Route Adjustments - Perimeter/Industrial areas: 300,000.00
- Reduce Yard Waste Collection Service: 84,000.00
- Eliminate Special Waste Collection: 36,000.00
- Close Household Hazardous Facility: 140,000.00
- Add Paid Parking Downtown: 667,000.00
- Enforce Overnight Parking Year Around: 150,000.00
- Remove Grant Funding for Community: 272,000.00
- Remove Grant Funding for Special Events: 100,000.00
- MacDonald Stewart Art Gallery: 168,700.00
- Neighbourhood Support Coalition: 150,000.00

**Total for the cost of proposed and additional cuts: $4,042,665**

I refer to these specific cuts and reductions in service since they have a direct impact on the sustainability of our Community. They affect the youth, the seniors, and the marginalized to a greater degree than those of us who are managing to weather this economic climate. They will also have an indirect adverse affect on the environment. These cuts will be hard on the Guelph Community.

**Hanlon Creek Business Park**

The 2010 Budget show $? Allocated for further development of the HCBP

The City plans on proceeding with the HCBP. The City has entered into a cost sharing Agreement with its partner Belmont Equity Holdings Ltd ($7.7 million)

The City also has a cost sharing agreement with MTO for the construction of the Hanlon/Laird Interchange to be funded through future Development Charges from the HCBP and elsewhere.

The City plans to recoup all expenses through the eventual sale of City owned property in the HCBP.

Belmont Equity Holdings Inc. and Cooper Construction have made financial investments in this project and do have a right to proceed according to the OMB.

In this light, according to Hans Loewig, Chief Administrative Officer, “**Guelph City**
Council can not ignore its contractual obligations and fiscal responsibilities”. (Corresponding the Guelph Civic League Executive Committee).

Guelph does have obligations to any commitments it makes and they are not to be taken lightly. However, how do we interpret “fiscal responsibility”?

This is a financial crisis. Does continuing to spend millions on a business park which at this time no-one appears to feel a need for constitute fiscal responsibility? The actual income realized by the City and the actual number of jobs created due to this project will likely be significantly less than anticipated.

I would put it forth to Council that “fiscal responsibility” would more properly be shown by funding the services and programs now being removed and shelving the HCBP for two years enabling the re-allocation of funds to help Guelph become a more sustainable community.

As far as the related Hanlon/Laird Interchange, it is not necessary for the HBCP and other south end developments. Surely this project and be shelved as well. ($3,000,000 for 2011 and $17,000,000 for 2012)

If these sorts of actions aren’t taken, where could next years further cuts be made?

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Morrison
Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination
Steering Committee
United Way of Guelph & Wellington
85 Westmount Rd.
Guelph, ON N1H 5J2

8 December 2009

Guelph City Council
City of Guelph
City Hall, 1 Carden St.
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Dear Members of Guelph City Council,

On behalf of the Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination Steering Committee, I encourage members of the Guelph City Council to continue supporting the Neighbourhood Support Coalition annually as part of their 2010 budget.

As a collaborative community initiative, the Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination seeks to eliminate poverty in our community by supporting, coordinating and inspiring sustainable change and supporting individual resilience through collective action. Members of the Task Force believe that the best way to realize this vision is to work with existing Neighbourhood Groups to deliver practical strategies aimed at poverty reduction.

The Task Force for Poverty Elimination recognizes that no other group in the city is focused on prevention and early intervention for those living in poverty and/or those considered to be at-risk, in the same capacity as the Neighbourhood Groups. Understanding the important role that the Neighbourhood Groups play in our community, the Task Force for Poverty Elimination acknowledges them as an excellent partner for meeting our vision of a poverty-free Guelph and Wellington.

As well, it was recently announced that the Ministry of Children and Youth Services will no longer be providing funding for the Community Development workers in five of Guelph’s most at-risk neighbourhoods. If the City of Guelph also decides to cut funds, our Neighbourhood Group’s ability to respond to the needs of residents across the city will be drastically reduced.

I hope that you seriously consider the benefits that continuing to invest in the Neighbourhood Support Coalition will continue to bring to our city.

Kind regards,

Ron MacKinnon
Chair, Steering Committee
Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination
I am absolutely appalled at the proposed extension of the bike lanes to encompass Stone Road. The bike lanes on College Avenue area west of the Hanlon were a complete waste of money. I walk this area everyday as part of my exercise schedule, and it doesn't matter what time of the day, to see one cyclist is a rarity, apart from young children who ride on the sidewalk. And this situation was all last summer and fall, in winter I expect to see no bikes at all.

I could not understand the decision to put them there in the first place, as it is hardly a scenic destination that people will travel to for leisure, and the population in this area use cars and occasionally public transport for getting places. There is also much confusion about the traffic lanes when vehicles cross the Hanlon to find a weird type of road narrowing.

To have this proposal in a budget when you are thinking of removing snow sidewalk clearance (a measure that was brought in with an increase in taxes to cover the cost several years ago) seems unbelievable to me. In my street alone there are professional couples who are often travelling on business, how are they meant to clear the snow and will you pass a law and fine them for not doing so? There are also elderly people who find it difficult enough to clear their driveways, and other retired people who choose to spend extended holidays in warmer climates rather than stay here for the winter weather, how are they meant to clear the sidewalk?

Times have changed and we all lead more sedentary lives and are often ill equipped to shoveling snow by a fixed time period.

Surely the bike lane has less priority in a city which has Linamar and other auto supplier, and seems to be car unfriendly.

No wonder Toyota preferred to build in Cambridge.

Please reconsider and change some priorities

Marcel D. Villeneuve
December 3, 2009

Mayor Karen Farbridge
Members of Guelph City Council
City Hall
1 Carden St.
Guelph, Ontario N1H 3A1

Dear Mayor Farbridge:

Re: City of Guelph 2010 Budget
Community Arts and Culture Grants

I am writing on behalf of the Guelph Chamber Choir to express concern about the possible cuts to community arts and culture grants. We do understand that members of Guelph City Council are currently facing a significant financial challenge in approving a budget for 2010. We further understand that, due to declining revenues and anticipated cost increases for 2010, the tax increase for Guelph residents is looking to be unacceptably high, thereby forcing Council members to consider cost saving measures.

The Guelph Chamber Choir is a member of the Guelph arts community and the Guelph Arts Council. The Chamber Choir has been performing concerts in the local community for the past 30 years, and is very grateful for the support from the City of Guelph. We also appreciated the words of congratulations and support from Councillor Leanne Piper on behalf of City Council at our 30th anniversary gala last month.

The possibility that community arts grants may be cut is causing much concern for the Board of the Chamber Choir. The implications of not receiving a grant from the City of Guelph for 2010 would be significant. Each year we try to keep our expenses in line with our revenue from grants, ticket sales, donations and individual and corporate sponsorships. Many of our revenue sources have been negatively impacted by the current economic climate. Corporate donations, especially, have been significantly reduced. In order to compensate for further reduced revenue, we would have to consider such measures as reducing the number of concerts and professional guest artists, and relocating concerts from the River Run Centre.

The Chamber Choir, and the arts community in general, contributes to the well-being of the local
community. A vibrant arts and cultural community contributes to the attraction for business and industry to locate here. The Chamber Choir also provides the City with a direct economic benefit: it pays rental fees and staff fees when it uses the River Run Centre. During this past season, our contribution to the River Run Centre’s revenues was in excess of $14,000. There are weekly rehearsals at the Guelph Youth Music Centre for which rent is paid. This amount was in excess of $2000 for last season.

It appears that more people are staying home during the economic downturn and are looking for local arts and cultural events to enjoy. Supporting local arts and cultural groups is a good investment. The grant from the City of Guelph helps us keep ticket prices as low as possible.

We understand the pressures currently being felt by members of Council from so many different directions. We thank you for your past support and are asking you to resist cutting community arts grants for the 2010 budget year. The Guelph Arts Council, and its members, enriches the lives of the residents of Guelph, and it will negatively impact the community if the Chamber Choir, and other arts groups like it, begin to reduce their performances and concerts over the coming year.

If you would like to learn more about us, please view our website at www.guelphchamberchoir.ca.

Sincerely

Stephen Pierce
President
Guelph Chamber Choir
P.O. Box 513
Guelph, Ontario N1H 6K9
519-836-5103
Dear Mayor Farbridge and Members of Council,

In an effort to reduce the waiting times for the many citizen delegations tomorrow evening, the Guelph Civic League has decided to refrain from presenting and respectfully submits the attached presentation for your consideration.

We are presenting suggestions to increase citizen engagement in the budget process and would be happy to expand upon these at the next quarterly meeting between GCL and the mayor/staff.

Feel free to peruse the following websites for more detailed information.


Best of luck with your deliberations.

Annie O'Donoghue
President GCL
Guelph Civic League

Engaging Citizens in Budget Planning & Priorities
Overview

What is Participatory Budgeting?

Where is it happening?

What are the benefits?

Where could we start?

get engaged: www.guelphcivicleague.ca
What is Participatory Budgeting (PB)?

- PB is a mechanism through which citizens actively participate in determining budget allocations and/or priorities.

- Citizens, councillors and city staff work together to develop priorities, consider new services and projects and set budgets in a transparent and democratic way.

get engaged: www.guelphcivicleague.ca
Where is it happening?

PB began in Port Alegre, Brazil in the 80’s.

Has moved beyond Latin American to over 250 councils in 27 countries including Spain, Belgium, Italy, Germany, France, Portugal, Denmark, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Australia, the U.K., U.S.A and Canada.

get engaged: www.guelphcivicleague.ca
Closer to home

Plateau Mont-Royal - citizens allocate over $4M of the municipal budget

Toronto Housing Commission - residents allocate $1.8M

Neighbourhood Support Coalition - NG’s allocate $150,000 of City of Guelph funds by consensus

get engaged: www.guelphcivicleague.ca
Benefits of PB?

Improves understanding of municipal processes.

Increases appreciation for the constraints faced by staff and council.

Provides opportunity for increased accountability.
Benefits of PB

Deepens citizenship and democracy.

Broadens understanding of diverse community needs.

Increases community cohesion.

get engaged: www.guelphcivicleague.ca
In Vancouver...

Neighbourhood Budget Meetings
Mayor’s Budget Forum
Online Video of Budget Forum
Online Budget Survey
City Website Budget Blog

get engaged: www.guelphcivicleague.ca
So what can we do differently in Guelph?
Because 30+ delegations @ 5 minutes each = an increase in frustration for citizens and a decrease in capacity to focus for council.

get engaged: www.guelphcivicleague.ca
Could City staff host a Budget Q&A for both media and citizens together?

get engaged: www.guelphcivicleague.ca
Could we consider...

Neighbourhood Assemblies?

Participatory Budgeting Task Force?

An Interactive Budget Website?

get engaged: www.guelphcivicleague.ca
Our City/Our Budget: Community Forum?

get engaged: www.guelphcivicleague.ca
GCL would be happy to host a conversation to discuss the possibilities for 2010!

get engaged: www.guelphcivicleague.ca
Guelph Civic League! Thank-you