

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



DATE December 15, 2008

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

O Canada
Silent Prayer
Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

2009 TAX SUPPORTED OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGETS

Staff will provide introductory remarks

DELEGATIONS (Councillor Piper)

"THAT persons desiring to address Council be permitted to do so at this time."
(limited to a maximum of five minutes)

- a) Paul Ross on behalf of Heritage Guelph
- b) Jane Cabral on behalf of the Neighbourhood Support Coalition

Correspondence:

- David and Linda Weber

"THAT the 2009 Tax Supported Operating Budget net levy of \$151,757,470 (3.58% increase), incorporating adjustments recommended by the Senior Management Team in Appendix 1, as requested by Council at the December 2, 2008 meeting, be approved;

AND THAT the proposed increases to user fees and transfers to/from reserve funds incorporated in the 2009 budget, be approved;

AND THAT the County be advised that the City's portion of levy funding for Ontario Works/ODSP, Child Care and Social Housing is being established at a 2009 budget amount of \$22,843,000 (versus December 2 presentation by County projected 2009 budget of \$23,154,000 for these services);

AND THAT the 2009 Tax Supported Capital Budget, (which incorporates revisions to include reconstruction of the Wyndham St bridge, as outlined in Appendix 2) in the amount of \$80,641,000 be approved;

AND THAT the 2010 – 2018 Tax Supported Capital Forecast in the amount of \$704,942,000 (Ten year total \$785,583,000) be received for information.”

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL REPORT



TO **Guelph City Council**

SERVICE AREA Finance
DATE December 15, 2008

SUBJECT 2009 Tax Supported Operating and Capital Budgets
REPORT NUMBER FIN-08-38

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the 2009 Tax Supported Operating Budget net levy of \$151,757,470 (3.58% increase), incorporating adjustments recommended by the Senior Management Team in Appendix 1, as requested by Council at the December 2, 2008 meeting, be approved;

AND THAT the proposed increases to user fees and transfers to/from reserve funds incorporated in the 2009 budget, be approved;

AND THAT the County be advised that the City's portion of levy funding for Ontario Works/ODSP, Child Care and Social Housing is being established at a 2009 budget amount of \$22,843,000 (versus December 2 presentation by County projected 2009 budget of \$23,154,000 for these services);

AND THAT the 2009 Tax Supported Capital Budget, (which incorporates revisions to include reconstruction of the Wyndham St bridge, as outlined in Appendix 2) in the amount of \$80,641,000 be approved ;

AND THAT the 2010 – 2018 Tax Supported Capital Forecast in the amount of \$704,942,000 (Ten year total \$785,583,000) be received for information.

REPORT

At its December 2, 2008 meeting, Council unanimously adopted the following resolution:

THAT staff report back on a recommended approach to reach a 2009 Operating Budget with a total increase of 3.75%, with potential areas for adjustment to include, but not limited to:

- Consideration of new service recommendations
- Review of reserve funding
- Reconsideration of capital projects
- Spread capital costs over time, by using debt funding
- Increasing user fees
- Examining existing service levels

The Senior Management Team met to review options for reductions in the levy support to meet Council's target, and are recommending the reductions, totaling \$2,513,100, which are detailed in **Appendix 1** to this report. If all adjustments are approved by Council, the impact is a 3.58% increase in the net tax levy, with an impact on the average household based on an average 2009 current value assessment of \$257,000 of \$96.

At the Community Design & Environmental Services budget presentation, staff were asked about construction of Wyndham Street from Wellington to Carden, with particular attention to the railway bridge. The budget as submitted to Council on December 2 did not include upgrading the bridge. Staff have reviewed the inclusion of the railway bridge and would recommend altering the capital budget to include the bridge. Details of the budget alteration can be found in **Appendix 2**.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 1: An attractive, well-functioning and sustainable city

Goal 2: A healthy and safe community where life can be lived to the fullest

Goal 3: A diverse and prosperous local economy

Goal 4: A vibrant and valued arts, culture and heritage identity

Goal 5: A community-focused, responsible and accountable government

Goal 6: A leader in conservation and resource protection/enhancement

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The net operating requirements identified in the budget document are funded through the municipal tax levy, various user fees and subsidies.

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION

Budget development was a coordinated effort by City Departments, Boards and Shared Services.

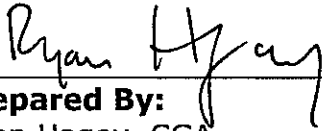
COMMUNICATIONS

Public meeting notification was placed on the City's web page and the local newspaper.

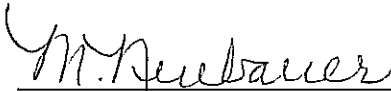
ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1 – Senior Management Team Suggested Budget Reductions to Meet Council's Request of 3.75% Total Budget

Appendix 2 – Wyndham Street Railway Bridge Alternative



Prepared By:
Ryan Hagey, CGA
Supervisor of Budgets



Recommended By:
Margaret Neubauer, CA
Director of Finance

Appendix 1



Senior Management Team Suggested Budget Reductions to Meet Council's Request of 3.75% Total Budget

Reduction Type	Amount
1 New Services	812,500
2 Capital Projects	639,000
3 Increased Revenue	491,500
4 County Programs	225,000
5 Existing Services	96,200
6 Funding to be Found by Adjusting Priorities/Timing In Existing Services	248,900
TOTAL	2,513,100

NOTE: These reductions would result in an overall budget increase of 3.58%

1 New Service Reductions	Department	pg #	Amount	Comment
Council Administrative Assistant	Council	2-5	61,700	Removes this position
Seasonal Overnight Parking on Streets	Operations	2-5	200,000	Pilot program concluded in 2008. Community expressed desire to retain on-street, overnight, seasonal parking
Additional Yard Waste Collection 1	Env Serv	2-5	40,000	Additional Spring Collection Event
Additional Yard Waste Collection 2	Env Serv	2-5	40,000	Additional Fall Collection Event
Communications/Education & Promotion Coord	Env Serv	2-5	73,400	Impacts the ability to increase education of solid waste programs as recommended in the 2008 Master Plan
Special Events Coordinator	Comm Serv	2-6	26,000	Change requested position from full-time to permanent part-time (Option #2 in Q&A)
Children's Department Clerical Support	Library	2-7	71,400	Removes this position
New Police Officers	Police	2-7	300,000	Removes two officers dedicated to Traffic and two officers from the Coordinated Enforcement Team (CET)
TOTAL			812,500	

2 Capital Project Reductions	Department	pg #	Amount	Comment
RD0033 New Sidewalk Construction	CDDS	20-7.1	100,000	Reduces 2009 budget to \$0.
RD0112 Pavement Deficit	CDDS	20-7.1	25,000	Reduces 2009 budget of \$2,643,000 by \$25,000
WM0033 Vehicle Storage & Mtce Building	Env Serv	20-24	200,000	Reduces 2009 budget of \$250,000 by \$200,000
RD0215 Fleet Vehicle & Equip Replacement	Operations	20-27	107,000	Top Soil Screener (90-561) not to be replaced.
RP0419 Cultural Mapping	Comm Serv	20-39	25,000	Will adjust projects to address work within the calendar year
RP0423 Centennial Arena	Comm Serv	20-39	12,000	Defer until 2010
RP0424 Evergreen Centre	Comm Serv	20-39	18,000	Defer until 2010
RR0030 Moving Lights	Comm Serv	20-42	32,000	Defer until 2011
GG0123 ARC Industries Capital	General	20-46	80,000	Does not fund the request from ARC
GG0011 Document Management	Info Serv	20-48.1	25,000	Reduces 2009 budget of \$371,000 by \$25,000
GG0113 Printer Replacement	Info Serv	20-48.1	15,000	Reduces 2009 budget of \$63,000 by \$15,000
TOTAL			639,000	

3 Increased Revenue	Department	pg #	Amount	Comment
Increase Revenue from Hydro Interest	General		250,000	Still using \$600K less Hydro Interest than in the 2008 budget
Increase funding for Land Ambulance less: County's share of additional funding	Emerg Serv		341,200	Additional Provincial funding announced December 5, 2008
Guelph/Eramosa Retainer Revenue Increase	Emerg Serv		(146,700)	County's share is 43%
Recreation Fee Increase of 0.5%	Comm Serv		18,000	Flat rate increase which will require fine tuning adjustments prior to implementation
Revenue Increase	Ec Dev		16,000	Anticipate additional funding from Feds/Province
TOTAL			491,500	

4 County Programs Reductions	Department	pg #	Amount	Comment
Reductions to Administrative Costs	Other		225,000	
TOTAL			225,000	

5 Existing Service Reductions	Department	pg #	Amount	Comment
Fax Service	Council		8,500	Based on results of Council survey
Construction and Demolition Waste Recycling	Env Serv		40,000	Divert about 10% less construction and demolition waste from landfill
Elimination of Christmas Day Bus Service	Comm Serv		23,000	Reduction approved by Council (Nov 24, 2008)
Operating & Maintenance Costs, Training	Emerg Serv		50,000	
Promotion, Training, IT Maintenance	Info Serv		14,000	
Fuel	Police		35,700	
Increase Transfer to Operating Contingency Reserv	General		(75,000)	Increase funding to reserve meant to offset budget impacts outside Council's control
TOTAL			96,200	

6 Funding to be Found by Adjusting Priorities/Timing In Existing Services	Department	pg #	Amount	Comment
Supervisor of Parks Infrastructure	Operations	2-5	105,900	funding to come from existing budgets
Playground Inspector Equipment	Operations	2-5	82,600	funding to come from existing budgets
Supervisor of Arts & Culture	Comm Serv	2-6	48,500	1/2 of funding to come from existing budgets. Impact of not funding position will delay progress on Goal #4.
Internet Payment Solution for POA	Corp Serv	2-7	11,900	funding to come from existing budgets
TOTAL			248,900	

Appendix 2 Wyndham Street Railway Bridge Alternative

During previous budget discussions, staff were asked to provide additional information regarding the railway bridge on Wyndham. Further to the response provided previously to Council, staff have reviewed the reconstruction of Wyndham Street from Carden to Wellington and recommend the construction be deferred to 2010 with design to be completed in 2009. It is expected that the bridge design assignment will cost \$500,000 and bridge construction will cost \$4.6M.

In addition to deferring the Wyndham Street project to 2010, staff recommend to move forward the Norfolk Street from Waterloo Avenue to Quebec Street reconstruction project in the Capital Budget to 2009 in order to avoid deferral of future downtown projects.

If the project scope of Wyndham Street is changed to include the railway bridge as described above, the project will require an additional \$5.1M in funding including \$1.7M from development charges. Staff believe this is the preferred long term solution if funding is available.

Attached is a revised capital project listing for roads which includes the following changes:

Project	2009	2010	Difference
RD0205 Wyndham Street Construction	-2,013,000	2,013,000	0
RD0205 Wyndham Bridge Design	500,000	0	500,000
RD0205 Wyndham Bridge Construction	0	4,600,000	4,600,000
RD0176 Norfolk: Waterloo-Quebec	1,685,000	-1,685,000	0
RD0112 Pavement Deficit	-172,000	172,000	0
TOTAL	0	5,100,000	5,100,000

Staff recognize that the 2010 capital program as presented exceeds available funding under current spending limits. All 2010 capital projects will be reviewed in conjunction with the Long Term Financial Plan, which will include a debt policy. Certain projects may require deferral unless additional funding becomes available through Federal/Provincial infrastructure programs meant to stimulate the economy.

The alternative capital program as outlined above should only be approved if Council intends to proceed with the Wyndham Bridge replacement.

**CITY OF GUELPH
2009 TAX-SUPPORTED CAPITAL BUDGET
2010 - 2018 TAX-SUPPORTED CAPITAL FORECAST
COMMUNITY DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES: ENGINEERING SERVICES - ROADS**

Project Number	Description and Location	Gross Project Cost (\$000's)										Total Project Cost	Sources of External Financing			Net Cost to City	Net Cost Funded From			
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		Grants & Subsidy	Devt Charges	Developer/ Other		Current Revenues	Reserves	Debtontures	
NON-GROWTH																				
33	RD0102 COLLEGE: POWERHOUSE LANE	820											820				820	820		
34	RD0105 DAWSON:SHELLDALE-SPEEDVALE		1,559	300									1,859				1,859	459	1,400	
35	RD0112 PAVEMENT DEFICIT	2,471	2,822	2,000	2,500	3,000	3,000	3,500	3,500	2,500	3,500		28,793				28,793	4,500	24,293	
36	RD0113 CIP ROAD UPGRADES	800	900	250	750	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,000	1,000	1,000		8,900				8,900		8,900	
37	RD0157 NORFOLK: NORWICH-QUEBEC				1,148	405							1,553				1,553	1,148	405	
38	RD0163 WOODLAWN: VICTORIA TO C RD 124							6,182				200	6,382				6,382	200	6,182	
39	RD0167 WYNDHAM: GARDEN TO WOOLWICH			3,473									3,473				3,473	708	2,765	
40	RD0174 INTERSECTION RECONSTRUCTION			250	1,200	1,500	1,750	2,000	2,250	3,000	3,000		14,950				14,950	4,278	10,672	
41	RD0176 NORFOLK: WATERLOO TO QUEBEC	1,685											1,685				1,685		1,685	
42	RD0178 MAJOR ROAD RECONSTRUCTION		250	3,485	3,149	2,923	3,439	3,372	3,552	5,056	5,056		30,282				30,282	2,998	27,284	
43	RD0179 MINDR ROAD RECONSTRUCTION		125	750	1,342	1,276	1,174	1,270	1,472	1,551	1,551		10,511				10,511	3,752	6,759	
44	RD0204 DUBLIN:LONDON-SUFFOLK & AREA	300	300										600				600		600	
45	RD0205 WYNDHAM: WELLINGTON TO GARDEN		2,013										2,013				2,013	421	1,592	
45	RD0205 WYNDHAM RAILWAY BRIDGE	500	4,600										5,100	1,700			3,400		500	2,900
45	RD0207 MALBOROUGH:EMMA-SPEEDVALE	100											100				100		100	
47	RD0213 SPEEDVALE:IMPERIAL-LEWIS	1,050											1,050				1,050		1,050	
48	RD0214 EDINBURGH:SPEEDVALE-LONDON	400	1,720										2,120				2,120	1,720	400	
49	RD0225 DUBLIN:SUFFOLK-WATERLOO	2,000											2,000				2,000		2,000	
OTHER PROJECTS																				
50	RD0033 NEW SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION	100		100	619	403	431	460	489	575	575		3,752				3,752		3,752	
51	RD0064 STRUCTURE REHABILITATION	345	115	345	86	345	345	345	345	345	345		2,961				2,961	652	2,309	
52	RD0151 ALLAN'S DAM BRIDGE	100	472										572				572	61	491	
53	RD0153 ROYAL CITY PARK STRUCTURES			451									451				451	118	333	
54	RD0168 DOWNTOWN PUBLIC REALM	2,000	3,700		3,000	575	600	625	650	1,000	1,000		13,150	2,000			11,150	4,450	337	6,363
55	RD0169 EDINBURGH ROAD BRIDGE							132					132				132	47	85	
56	RD0177 SPEEDVALE AVE BRIDGE					132							132				132	47	85	
NON-GROWTH SUB-TOTAL		12,671	18,576	11,404	13,794	11,559	11,871	18,954	13,258	15,027	16,227		143,341		1,700	2,000	139,641	24,431	98,860	12,950
TOTAL		25,614	32,238	29,637	49,642	23,356	19,097	22,500	27,943	17,447	17,437		264,911	25,367	66,154	8,264	165,128	39,451	100,560	21,715

Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition

Presentation to City Council

Monday December 15th, 2008



The Neighbourhood Groups who are part of the Support Coalition (NSC)

1. Onward Willow
2. Brant Avenue
3. Waverley
4. Two Rivers
5. Parkwood Gardens
6. Grange Hill East
7. Exhibition Park
8. West Willow Woods
9. Kortright Hills
10. Clairfields
11. Hanlon Creek
12. Our Three Bridges

Funding:

- In 2006, the number of neighbourhood groups increased from 6 to 9 and our funding from the City of Guelph increased from \$100 000 to \$125 000 annually.
- In the spring of 2008 we received 'One time' additional funding of \$50 000.
- Effective 2009, there will be 12 neighbourhood groups accessing the \$125 000 in funding.

Request:

- At this time, we would like to request that the \$50 000 we received in the spring be permanently added to the funding the NSC receives each year.
- This would provide \$175 000 in funding from the City of Guelph to the 12 neighbourhood groups.

The NSC operates based on these core principles:

- Inclusiveness-reduction of invisible barriers
- Community engagement and involvement
- Growing social capital-using and expanding citizen skills and talents
- Transparency-We share budget, fundraising and programming information .
- Equity-all voices are valued, Consensus.



Our Growth Plan for 2009

1. We have set aside 5% of our funding to allocate money to three new groups that are currently in the initiating stages of development-Clairfields, Hanlon Creek, and Our Three Bridges. This money would also fund any other new groups that come along in 2009.

Growth Plan for 2009:



2.

- It is our hope to continue to offer employment opportunities in our neighbourhood groups to offer more programs and events and do more outreach to community members and volunteers.
- Each year, the NSC offers roughly 500 community-building events and programs.

Growth Plan for 2009:

3. Continue and increase assistance to neighbours in need with the help of the following programs:

- Collective Kitchen
- Breakfast Clubs
- Food Cupboards
- Bus Tickets-potentially a volunteer driver program
- Clothing Cupboards
- Backpack program-back to school supplies for people that can't afford them
- Subsidies or free admission to camps, after school programs and events.

Growth Plan for 2009:

4. Continue the Practice of Inclusiveness by Outreaching to neighbours with:

- Special Needs
- From different cultures
- In low income neighbourhoods
- In under resourced neighbourhoods
- From lesser educational backgrounds
- Who are new to Guelph
- Who are struggling with parental responsibilities
- Who are having difficulty accessing levels of government, assistance organizations, the school system, etc.

Growth Plan for 2009:

5.

- Continue to maintain our highly successful volunteer programs through recruitment and retention campaigns.
- All programs and events are Identified, developed and implemented by volunteer members of the community for their community

Growth Plan for 2009:

6. Outreach to two new groups in particular:
 - Youth –Leader in Training programs, dances, promotional information
 - Citizens who have become disengaged and apathetic –information nights, inviting councillors to our neighbourhood monthly meetings, providing ‘what’s new in your neighbourhood’ updates, continuing to provide quality programs and events.
 - Mature Adults – tailored events and programs

Growth Plan for 2009:

7. Continue and Search out more partnership opportunities.

Current Partners Include:

- Upper Grand District School Board
- Wellington Catholic Separate School Board
- Family and Children's Services
- Scouts Canada
- County of Wellington
- Ontario Early Years
- United Way, etc, etc.

Growth Plan for 2009:

8. The NSC has gone through a year of serious re-evaluation of our organizational structure. In January of 2009 we plan to finalize how and who will be responsible for:

- Decision making
- Promotion
- Recognition
- Orientation

It is our goal to be a more cohesive, well organized coalition once our re-evaluation process is complete.

Growth Plan for 2009:

9.

- Fundraising-it is our plan through continued partnerships to increase the funding provided by the City of Guelph, The County of Wellington and the United Way and look at long term solutions.
- We also plan to explore more opportunities with other funders in an attempt to have funding keep pace with the popularity of the NSC.
- For every \$1 of municipal contributions, the NSC secures an additional \$5 of cash or in-kind contributions externally.

Request

- The NSC is made up of City of Guelph tax payers and none of us want to pay more taxes, especially in these uncertain economic times. It is during these uncertain times ahead though, that neighbours need the assistance that the NSC is able to provide the most.

Request

- We would like to formally request that the \$50 000 additional funding received in 2008, be permanently added to the funding we receive each year.



Questions



Daniel Moore, MSW
Executive Director

www.fcsgw.org
info@fcsgw.org

519-824-2410
1-800-265-8300

Head Office

55 Delhi Street
Box 1088
Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3
F 519-763-9628

Fountain Street Office

70 Fountain Street East
Box 1088
Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3
F 519-823-4296

Victoria Road Office

286 Victoria Road North
Box 1088
Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3
F 519-876-9113

Shelldale Centre

20 Shelldale Crescent
Box 1088
Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3
F 519-766-4537

County Office

6484 Wellington Road 7
Box 29
Flora, ON, N0B 1S0
F 519-846-1005

December 10, 2008

Guelph City Council
City Hall
59 Carden St.
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 3A1

Dear Guelph City Councilors:

It is my pleasure to write this letter to accompany some of the key results from a recent evaluation of our community development program. Our agency has been a strong supporter of the Neighbourhood Support Coalition and Neighbourhood Groups for the last 15 years or so. We currently have four Community Development workers in five Neighbourhood Groups; they are located in neighbourhoods where we have large numbers of open child welfare cases. Our primary goal is to provide early intervention and prevention of harm to children.

We believe strongly in what happens at Neighbourhood Groups. We are heartened by the results of the evaluation which tells us what we suspected – that when people are in charge of setting their own agendas in their own neighbourhoods and have the resources to support those agendas, they respond in large numbers and get involved in ways that provides richness, meaning, and builds community. This then leads to a stronger community for children and families and allows them more opportunities to develop and thrive.

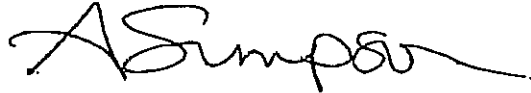
The particular interest our agency has is the benefits Neighbourhood Groups bring to the city's most vulnerable families and children. A poignant example that our Community Development worker at Parkwood Gardens Neighbourhood Group (located in a room at the West End Rec. Centre) tells us is that, when isolated and vulnerable parents come into programs at the Neighbourhood Group, they will often say, "I've never been to this centre before!". While mainstream places like a recreation centre are universal and meant for the entire community, they don't always attract the most isolated and vulnerable people in our city. There is something wonderful that happens at neighbourhood groups where people feel a sense of ownership and belonging in their community like nothing else I've ever seen. We believe this is good for children and families and that it actually prevents harm to children.

RECEIVED
DEC 10 2008
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE



Please have a look at the key results and if you have any questions, we would be happy to answer them. Please feel free to contact me at any time as I am always happy to discuss the value of the partnership between our agency and the City of Guelph in providing accessible services for the most vulnerable children in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ASimpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anne" and last name "Simpson" clearly distinguishable.

Anne-Marie Simpson, MSW RSW
Service Director
Family and Community Services Department



Daniel Moore, MSW
Executive Director

www.fcsgw.org
info@fcsgw.org

519-824-2410
1-800-265-8300

Head Office

55 Delhi Street
Box 1088
Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3
F 519-763-9628

Fountain Street Office

70 Fountain Street East
Box 1088
Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3
F 519-823-4296

Victoria Road Office

286 Victoria Road North
Box 1088
Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3
F 519-826-9113

Shelldale Centre

20 Shelldale Crescent
Box 1088
Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3
F 519-766-4537

County Office

6484 Wellington Road 7
Box 29
Elora, ON, N0B 1S0
F 519-846-1005

Preliminary Results from F&CS Community Development Program Survey

Family & Children's Services is a partner to the Neighbourhood Support Coalition and supports neighbourhoods primarily through the provision of human resources. We have community development workers who are located in five Neighbourhood Groups (Brant, Waverly, West Willow Woods, Parkwood Gardens and Two Rivers). Our primary goal through this partnership is the early intervention and prevention of child maltreatment.

Our intention in this evaluation was to measure community development outcomes. The evaluation framework included a survey to the Neighbourhood Groups where our CD workers are located. 125 surveys were distributed at the above five neighbourhood groups and 83 were returned (66%). The following results are just a few of the key results.

These results are all from families who are currently using supports, services or programs of the neighbourhood groups. The limitations of the results will be in that those that don't use the programs, supports or services were not surveyed. Further evaluation for those that do not engage in Neighbourhood Group activities would be helpful for appropriate comparative data.

Community Development statistics (these do not include children or adult programming statistics):

- Average number of families who make individual connection with CD worker per month: **175**
- Average number of children who are impacted by the connection between their family and the CD worker per month: **225**
- The top three reasons people make connections with the Neighbourhood Group CD worker:
 1. Poverty (Food, clothes)
 2. Isolation (place to meet neighbours, make community connections)
 3. Referrals to community programs and services



Survey Results from some key questions:

Do you feel the Neighbourhood Group goals and priorities for your neighbourhood are the same as your own goals and priorities for your neighbourhood?

- Yes - 63%
- Somewhat - 25%

Do you share your ideas with your Neighbourhood Group?

- Yes - 59%
- Somewhat - 18%

Do Neighbourhood staff and volunteers listen to you and your ideas?

- Yes - 76%
- Somewhat - 14%

(Note: it would be interesting to compare this with the respondents' perceptions of whether they are listened to by the City staff, City Council, or F&CS staff)

How helpful has the Neighbourhood Group been at connecting you to needed services and supports?

- Very helpful - 66%
- Helpful - 15%

Do services and supports help you and your children?

- Yes - 78%
- Somewhat - 9%

Do you think other families or children helped in different ways than you by these activities, supports and/or services?

- Yes - 87%
- Don't know - 13%

How helpful have the services and supports for families and children been?

- Very helpful - 68%
- Helpful - 30%

If Neighbourhood Group supports and services for families and children weren't there what would you do?

- "Not sure what I would do", 'don't know" (major theme)
- "be lost"
- "Not know about a lot of programs"
- "Wouldn't be able to afford camps"
- "NG is a fixture in my family life"



(Cont'd)

- "stay at home and not be social"
- "depend on eldest child to take care of 3 siblings"
- "suffer"
- "wonder where to go for help"
- "a lot less of a community feeling"

Have you ever helped someone you met in your NG?

- Yes - 77%

Has someone you met in your NG ever helped you?

- Yes - 61%

What kinds of ways did you help each other?

- Childcare
- Food
- Transportation
- Support in issues with kids
- Help during crisis
- "Make me feel loved, important and useful"

November 12th., 2008

City of Guelph
City Hall
59 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1
ATTN: Mr. Derek McCaughan, Director of Operations

Dear Mr. McCaughan,

Regarding your consideration to place an adult crossing guard at the intersection of Victoria Rd. and Eastview Rd. to aid children crossing the busy intersection to attend Ottawa Cr. Public School, we want to thank you for support in agreeing that something has to be done.

While we thank you, at the same time we are concerned about the timing involved with the process. The school year is well under way and to wait for council to make a decision whether or not to include a crossing guard in 2009 budget is a crime. This intersection already has a history of being dangerous. Not long ago a car swerved off the road pinning a pedestrian against a house!?!

Last year our daughter, in grade 4 at the time was training to be a crossing guard. Guess where they had her training?, Yes Victoria Rd. and Eastview Rd. One day the child that was training her was not there and she was there alone!. Needless to say, this disturbed us greatly and we made sure that she was not posted at this intersection. **This is serious business as we are talking about our young children here!** Do we have to wait for a tragedy such as what happened on Rickson Rd. and Edinburgh Rd. in the south end before something is done?

We are positive that the city has emergency funds or contingency funds set aside that can help our children in this particular case until the bureaucracy is over with. The city, the principal of the school, and the parents of children crossing Victoria Rd. all agree that an adult crossing guard is needed. As tax payers of the city, we request that an adult crossing guard be placed immediately at this intersection.

Sincerely,



David and Linda Weber

cc. Mayor Karen Farbridge
Councillor Bob Bell
Councillor Kathleen Farrelly
Councillor Vicki Beard
Councillor Ian Findlay
The Editor - Guelph Mercury
The Editor - Guelph Tribune

