



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: May 29, 2007
Author: Doug Mitchell /
Eric Li
Phone No.: 604.871.6960 /
604.873.7769
RTS No.: 06742
VanRIMS No.: 05-1000-30
Meeting Date: June 14, 2007

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets

FROM: General Manager of Corporate Services in Consultation with General Manager of Community Services and General Manager of Parks and Recreation and Director of Legal Services

SUBJECT: Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society Recreation/Gymnasium Operating Funding 2007 and Lease and Operating Agreements

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve 2007 funding in the amount of \$225,930 (an increase of 2% from the 2006 approved funding of \$221,500) to the Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society for the delivery of recreation programs and operation of the Collingwood Gymnasium (the "Gymnasium") for the period January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007; source of funds to be the 2007 Operating Budget.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

The City's relationship with the Society with regard to the Collingwood Neighbourhood House Gymnasium is outlined in the original request to Council approved on December 15, 1994. Since then Council has approved on-going funding to support the Society's operations. On February 19, 2002 Council approved a five year lease (the "Lease") with the Society which commenced on November 25, 2000 and expired on November 24, 2005 and on November 7, 2002, Council approved an operating agreement with the Society to formalize funding and operating commitments for the Gymnasium which was done by way of a modification to the Lease dated November 26, 2003 (the "Lease Modification") for a period ending November 25, 2005.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for 2007 operating funds for the delivery of recreation programs and operation of the Gymnasium at Collingwood Neighbourhood House.

BACKGROUND

The Society has been operating at the Joyce-Vaness site since late 1995. The operation of the Gymnasium is considered to be a unique arrangement. The Collingwood Neighbourhood House, including the Gymnasium, is owned by the City and leased to the Society pursuant to a Lease dated November 25, 2000. The Lease expired on November 24, 2005 and the Society is currently overholding. On November 26, 2003 the Society and the City entered into the Lease Modification to incorporate provisions regarding the operation of the Collingwood Neighbourhood House and the review of such operations and the finances of the Society by an Advisory Committee and City Staff. City Staff are reviewing the existing arrangements with the Society for the purposes of developing a new lease and a new operating agreement (either incorporated into the lease or in a separate agreement) with the Society. This review is occurring simultaneously with the review of the City's arrangements with other similar organizations. Upon the conclusion of such review, City staff will make recommendations to Council on the terms of a new lease and operating agreement for the Collingwood Neighbourhood House.

The City and the Society also entered into a Gymnasium Licence and Operating Agreement with the Board of School Trustees of District No. 39 effective January 1, 2002 which governs the shared usage of the Gymnasium by the Society and the School Board. The term of the Gymnasium Licence and Operating Agreement is tied to the Lease; accordingly, upon the conclusion of the review noted above, City Staff will also recommend that a new Gymnasium Licence and Operating Agreement be entered into between the City, the Society and the School Board.

The Lease Modification requires the Society to provide a business plan detailing the programs and services to be delivered in the upcoming fiscal year along with financial and performance information for the current fiscal year ending March 31. Upon submission of the business plan and corresponding financial and performance information, the Lease Modification requires

that representatives from Corporate Services Group, Community Services Group and Parks and Recreation ("City Staff") meet with management and at least two board members of the Society to undertake an annual review of current performance and future plans for the forthcoming year.

The annual review meeting took place in May, 2007 and it provided a good exchange of ideas and discussion focusing largely on the common goals of the City and the Society. The City Staff concluded that Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society had continued to provide quality service throughout 2006 and that their operation plan for 2007 was consistent with City's goals.

DISCUSSION

A. Operating Results for the Year Ended March 31, 2007

The Society continues to reflect the needs of a diverse community by providing a broad range of programs. Society staff continued to work with local residents to improve recreation opportunities, cultural development and participation in the community by encouraging the intermingling of different age groups and cultures. In 2006, approximately 21,168 members of the community participated in Collingwood's 64 recreation programs. An additional 16,350 youth participated in programs offered by the Collingwood Neighbourhood House. (Note: These statistics include multiple visits from program participants.)

In 2006/07, the Recreation Department of Collingwood Neighbourhood House, which delivers the programs under this agreement, experienced a surplus of \$2,936. The financial operating results for the year ended March 31, 2007 are summarized as follows:

Year ended March 31, 2007	Budget 2006/07 (1)	Unaudited Actual 2006/07 (2)	Variance Budget 06/07 To Actual 06/07 Favourable/ (unfavourable) (3)	Budget 2007/08 (4)	Variance Budget 07/08 to Actual 06/07 Favourable1/ (Unfavourable) (5)
Total Revenue	\$315,644	\$299,342	(\$16,302)	\$312,795	\$13,453
Expenses					
Accessibility Expenses	\$4,100	\$5,799	(\$1,699)	\$4,160	\$1,639
Human Resources Expenses	\$235,319	\$222,813	\$12,506	\$238,172	(\$15,359)
Administration Expenses	\$57,059	\$54,335	\$2,724	\$56,655	(\$2,320)
Capital and Facilities Expenses	\$8,000	\$8,748	(\$748)	\$8,000	\$748
Program Expenses	\$11,166	\$4,711	\$6,455	\$5,808	(\$1,097)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$315,644	\$296,406	\$19,238	\$312,795	(\$16,389)
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$0	\$2,936	\$2,936	\$0	(\$2,936)

The unfavourable variance of \$16,302 (5.2%) in Total Revenue is due to decline in attendance for some programs and the loss of two high revenue-generating programs, specifically Adult Volleyball and T'ai Chi class which has taken most of the year to replace these programs with activities that bring in comparable revenue. Program reductions and cancellations resulted in a favourable variance of \$19,238 (6.1%) in total operating costs due primarily to a decrease of \$12,506 (5.3%) in Human Resource expenses.

B. Funding Request for 2007

As required by the Lease Modification, the Society has provided a copy of its 2007/08 Work Plan for Council review (Appendix A). The Society continues to address the challenges associated with providing affordable, accessible recreation programs in a rapidly growing community. To improve accessibility and to take advantage of existing facilities, the Society maintains a number of partnerships with local schools and community centres in order to provide recreational programs. Added to the 07/08 Budget are seven programs targeting recreation activities for children and families, which include Jazzercise, Hatha Yoga, T'ai Chi, Piano Lessons, Badminton for Children, Adult Soccer and Spanish Music for Children.

The 2007/08 proposed budget reflects the need to support the delivery of programs outlined in the Society's Work Plan. The budgeted increase of \$13,453 (4.5%) over the previous year's total revenue is due primarily to the anticipated increase in program fees for the 7 new programs as well as a slight increase in user fees. Correspondingly, the increase of \$16,389 (5.5%) in total operating expenses reflects an increase of \$15,359 (6.9%) in Human Resource expenses due directly to cost incurred for expanding program deliveries and salary increases.

The City Staff recommend an increase of 2% over 2006 approved funding of \$221,500. This is consistent with the general inflation factor used in preparing the City's 2007/08 operating budget.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The City Staff support the continued financial support from the City for the delivery of recreation programs and the operation of the Gymnasium at Collingwood Neighbourhood House through the proposed City funding of \$225,930 for 2007, source of funds to be the 2007 Operating Budget.

CONCLUSION

The Society provides an important service to a demographically diverse community in the Collingwood area. The unique arrangement of a local organization responsible in the development and operation of a City-owned gymnasium has been mutually beneficial in this community. Continued financial support for the delivery of recreation programs will ensure that such services can continue to be provided to the members of the community.

Collingwood Neighbourhood House Recreation/Gym Program

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the City of Vancouver with an update of program activities to date (March 2007) and provide a plan for the upcoming year. Collingwood Neighbourhood House (CNH) is seeking approval for 2007 operating funds to support continued and expanded delivery of recreation programs in the Collingwood Neighbourhood House and community. CNH is requesting a cost of living increase on its current funding as Council policy permits. This increase is necessary to cover existing costs and address budget pressures.

BACKGROUND

City funding for CNH recreation has been stable and consistent since 1994 and most recently, in May 2006, Council approved funding to CNH in the amount of \$221,500. In November 2002, in order to clarify roles and responsibilities, staff recommended in a report to Council that the agreement between the City and the Society regarding the funding for the gymnasium/recreation be formalized. City staff worked with the Society to draft and enter into a specific operating agreement. This agreement completed and executed in November 2003, set out the requirement for this review. One of the principal elements of this agreement is the recognition that Corporate Services, Community Services, and Parks and Recreation require representation in performing an annual review of gymnasium and recreation operations. Management of the services contract is therefore seen as a joint responsibility.

An Overview of the Collingwood Community

Collingwood has been undergoing unprecedented development since 1995 resulting in rapid population growth in the last decade, and this is expected to continue as current and new developments are realized over the next few years. School enrolment figures and demand for services also confirm this continuing growth. The Collingwood Village growth projections alone, correctly predicted an additional 11,000 new residents when all phases are completed in the next few years.

Collingwood is also one of the most economically and culturally diverse communities in East Vancouver. The proportion of residents with English as a Second Language is over 60% and government statistics confirm that there are large pockets within the community of low-income families. Collingwood also has one of the highest proportion of newborns, as well as the highest number of youth per capita as confirmed by Health and Census statistics. Lastly, Collingwood has a disproportionately high number of seniors and special needs residences. This community diversity continues to shape the overall content of recreation programs and their accessibility.

Collingwood Neighbourhood House Gymnasium and Recreation Program

The Collingwood Neighbourhood House gymnasium was part of the 1995 Collingwood Village Amenities, a comprehensive city plan to support the establishment of city funded services as part of the approved Collingwood Village development. The development of a gymnasium and recreation program was a community priority identified by the Joyce Street Area Planning Committee.

Under this plan, the Collingwood Neighbourhood House assumed responsibility for managing the gymnasium/recreation program on the understanding that the Society would receive City funding to support these operations at a comparable level to that provided to similar operations. The gym/recreation program was one component within a multi-service facility that included other community amenities, such as licensed childcare facilities, settlement services, family and social services, community development, park space, and an elementary school that opened in January 2002.

As noted in the 1995 City report, this approach was less costly than having the gym/recreation program operated by the Parks Board. It also ensured that services on the Collingwood site could be better coordinated and that there was maximum potential for community input into the operation. Under this agreement, the Collingwood Neighbourhood House agreed to fund services beyond the basic level through fundraising and program revenues.

A steering committee was established in 1995 to start up operations, establish operating budgets and guide programming direction. This committee was made up of representatives from the Joyce Street Area Planning Committee, the Collingwood Neighbourhood House, Vancouver City, Vancouver Parks and Recreation, and the Vancouver School Board. Working within the mission of Collingwood Neighbourhood House to serve the needs of the community, this committee established the principles and vision that continue to guide Collingwood's recreation program operations, as described in the goals below:

Main goals of the Recreation program

1. To provide a broad range of recreation and leisure services and opportunities to Collingwood residents of all ages and ability levels.
2. To provide a good balance of social, cultural, physical and arts related activities and to communicate with residents to ensure programs are relevant and responsive to community needs.
3. To provide programs and services that remain accessible to all people in the Collingwood community, responsive to disadvantaged residents, and designed to reduce or eliminate any barriers to participation.
4. To create community development opportunities through recreation and leisure including activities for people from different generations to engage in recreation together.

Overview of Activities

The overall Collingwood Neighbourhood House Recreation program is comprised of approximately 65 individual programs with most of these operating year round. There is a wide range of ongoing activities offered including arts, drama, music, outdoors, reading and language, cooking, social, fitness, and many physical activities and sports. We also run up to seven summer camp recreation programs for children including drama, gymnastics, music, basketball, visual arts, jazzercise and soccer. Special Events and clinics such as running seminars and drumming events are also offered at various times throughout the year. The nature and number of programs offered reflect the continuing growth and change of the Collingwood community itself.

Future Challenges for Collingwood/Renfrew Community and Impacts on Recreation and Leisure services

1. **Rapid population growth** - We have experienced rapid population growth in our community during the past decade resulting in a steady increase in the number of people participating in our programs and activities. Our membership numbers grow steadily each year and more people seem to discover our neighbourhood house each month. We expect steady growth in population to continue for the next few years however the increase in the population will not be as dramatic as in the past decade. Along with more people comes a need for more and greater variety of services. In addition, the cultural diversity of the community continues to present unique challenges and opportunities in planning recreation programs, as over 60% of residents are English as a Second Language.
2. **Space availability** - Until now we have been able to provide a high level of service and respond well to the changing needs of our growing population. This will become more difficult in the future due to the limit of available community space for recreation programs at the main neighbourhood house. At present, we operate several programs in local elementary schools; however, the availability of other community spaces to operate recreation programs is limited and is usually short term with no guarantee of future availability. These arrangements are achieved through community relationship building and require ongoing attention.
3. **Funding cutbacks** - Recently, we have undergone funding cutbacks in the areas of youth, seniors and family services all of which have a significant recreation component. This has put additional pressure on our recreation program to help maintain enough recreation programs and opportunities for leisure/recreation for youth, seniors and families.
4. **Expansion of services, affordability and accessibility** - We will also need to find ways to fund the expansion of services that community residents need. This will be a significant challenge as many of the people living or moving into the Collingwood community are in the lower to middle socio-economic class and therefore, affordability and accessibility of recreation programs is a major issue.

5. **Training and retention of staff** - Another future challenge will be our ability to provide ongoing training and retention for our recreation staff. This includes part-time unionized employees as well as contract staff. A new collective bargaining agreement will be completed in the near future and will result in an increase in wages and benefits for recreation staff. The rate for contract staff (e.g. Pilates, Visual Arts and Yoga instructors) has been reviewed and increased from \$20 per hour to \$20.90. Our contract staff members had been at the rate of \$20 per hour since 1999. Currently we have limited funds for training of staff and rely on the ability of new part-time paid employees to learn on the job under the direction of the recreation coordinator. This is becoming more challenging as the range of recreation programs and services we offer continues to increase.
6. **Staff changes at the Director and Coordinator level** - Recently we have had several staff changes at the Coordinators and Directors level of CNH. In addition to Coordinator changes for our Youth Services, Seniors Activities, Settlement Services and Prevention Education we have experienced several changes at the Directors level. This has resulted in our full-time recreation coordinator position being temporarily staffed by Carmen Correal while Michael McLenaghan moved into a director position from October 2006 until May 2007; we will be reviewing this arrangement and making further adjustments in the spring of 2007.

Meeting the Challenges

1. **Maximizing use of available space** - As our main facility is getting close to full capacity (currently nearing 90% use) we continue to explore other facilities in the community that can be used for the provision of recreation and leisure services. We are optimistic about maximizing available community space through (e.g.) continuing to use elementary and secondary school gym space after school (and increase this use). However this will depend on continued local support from Principals, and the ability to avoid paying School Board rental fees that may apply.
2. **Promotion of programs** - We need to maximize our efforts to promote existing programs so that community members are aware of what is offered which will help to maintain high levels of participation. This will help to ensure that the recreation needs of a larger proportion of community members is met, as well as increasing revenue that can be used for new recreation opportunities.
3. **Partnerships and collaboration** - Another way we meet the challenges identified in providing quality recreation services to our community is to develop and maintain strong partnerships with other local community groups and with some groups outside of our community. The following groups are examples of partnerships we have established that help us with our recreation program in various ways.
 - **Renfrew Park Community Centre** - Renfrew C. C. is our main partner in the planning of recreation, youth, and community development programs and activities in Renfrew/Collingwood. We have a strong working partnership and we coordinate activities to minimize duplication and maximize resources and efforts.

- **Vancouver School Board** - We have a standing agreement for the use of the Collingwood Neighbourhood School Gymnasium during after school hours and on weekends.
- **Joyce Street Area Planning Committee** - This resident group has been actively involved in the development of the Collingwood community and the neighbourhood house since the 1980s.
- **Collingwood Community Policing Centre** - Have been involved in the development and planning of recreation in the community and with special events. They support our recreation and prevention education initiatives as key preventative tools in reducing problems such as drug use, bullying and crime in the community.
- **Windermere Family of Schools** - Provides space for recreation activities at Windermere high school and the seven elementary feeder schools. The CNH recreation coordinators have helped to facilitate leadership opportunities and training for students. We have also provided training and workshops for teaching staff during the past 6 years.
- **Evergreen Health Center** - Evergreen helps to promote active living by providing space for us to display and promote various recreation activities at their center. Our Visual arts program has worked with Evergreen on several projects and we currently have a display of various local artists at the center. Other initiatives taking place in partnership with Evergreen are the Young Parents program and the Young Fathers program. These programs help to support young parents by providing group support, information on health and social issues relative to being a young parent in addition to social and recreation opportunities. Some of these young parents have recently become involved with our Canoe Club.
- **Langara College** - We have offered workshops and assisted with the teaching of classes in Langara's Recreation diploma program. In addition to this we have mentored recreation students during their practicum placements for 6 of the past 11 years.
- **Night-hoops Basketball** - We have renewed our partnership with the Night-hoops basketball program and currently have a keen group of 14 to 16 year old boys playing in the league. This past year was a real highlight for the boys as they won the city championship.
- **Some other groups** we have established partnerships with include: Vancouver Coastal Health authority, Genesis and Eagle High Alternate schools, B.C. Parks and Recreation Association, Pinnacle Pursuits Outdoor Adventures, Gym-Sense Gymnastics Education, Active Holistic Health, Jazzercise Inc., Latin Canadian Soccer group, Luk Tung exercise group, and Canadian Maple Leaf Ballroom Dance.

2006/07 WORK PLAN - Update on Accomplishments to Date

- **Maintain existing complement of basic recreation programs at high level of quality.**

We have maintained our existing complement of recreation programs and evaluation responses from all of our programs this year have been very positive. The number of programs being offered continues to increase each year although program growth has stabilized more in the past year. During the past year we have offered approximately 10 new programs and we have discontinued 4.

- **Increase gym and recreation activities on weekends.**

We have maintained several programs that were developed over the past 2 years including Children's basketball, Youth activities (cooking, leadership, visual arts), Girl's social recreation activities, Jazzercise and Canoe club. Our Visual Arts programs have expanded and increased in popularity during the past year. Many people involved in activities such as the canoe club and Visual Arts participate in various community development initiatives such as food security, gardening, Collingwood Days and Harmony community banners

- **Increase services for children and families.**

The new programs being offered on weekends reflect some of the increased services for children and families. The Aboriginal Canoe Club is now in its fourth year and has seen significant growth in both the number of participants and frequency of activities. Gardening activities started in the summer of 2005 with the completion of our new rooftop garden area and we are looking at ways to involve people of all ages. We have increased the number of ballet, creative dance, children's gymnastics and summer camps being offered in the past year.

- **Programs and services continue to expand in the following areas:**

Young Parents programs - We have been successful in planning and implementing four young parents programs in partnership with the Evergreen Health Center and Renfrew Community Centre. These programs consist of a young mothers group, young fathers group and two new young parents groups. As well as offering group support and knowledge related to parenting, these programs provide social and recreational opportunities for participants and help to link participants to existing recreation and leisure opportunities in the community.

Canoe Club - During the past year our Canoe Club has involved over 50 Aboriginal youth from the ages of 12 to 19. Workshops and instruction in leadership, teambuilding, first aid, swimming and canoeing have helped to prepare these young people to be able to participate safely and skilfully in canoe trips. These trips have usually consisted of half-day paddles in local lakes such as Trout, Deer, Sasamat and Buntzen Lakes. One of the highlights of the year was having our group participate in a 5-day trip along the Fraser River from Harrison to Locarno Beach at U.B.C with other Canoe groups. The youth involved in the Canoe Club have taken on leadership responsibilities through managing

financial and budgeting tasks as well as planning large community events high lighting Canoe Club activities.

Youth basketball continues to be in high demand. Our youth basketball programming has been maintained at the same level. We are continuing to offer our highly successful fast-break basketball program in partnership with local schools and have expanded regular gym times for youth to play basketball. This past year we received a true sport grant of \$5,000, which enabled us to provide more in depth training to our youth leaders on our values, based coaching model. As previously mentioned we re-started our boys **Night-hoops team** in the winter of 2006. Our team represented our community well demonstrating good sportsmanship while winning the city championship.

Other youth initiatives include outdoor trips and activities, overnight sleepovers at CNH, increased sport activities such as girls' volleyball and various leadership opportunities. Our youth program has won two awards in the past few years including the Solicitor General's award for community safety (one of 2 youth groups in province to win) and a Child and Youth friendly award for working to establish a child and youth friendly community.

Seniors Activities - Our seniors out-trip program has been highly successful. Recently, 48 seniors went on a bus trip to Victoria and had a wonderful day. More trips are planned for the future. Other seniors activities recently added include poetry reading, genealogy, social opportunities, table tennis, dancing and music, special events and encouraging seniors to participate in the many community development and volunteer opportunities at CNH.

Performing Arts and Music - We have a drama program operating at various times of the year and several music programs. One of our music programs is working toward developing a community choir. Also, we have expanded our ballet and creative dance program for preschoolers and school-age children. All of these programs are for children and youth. We have started to expand opportunities in performing arts with our seniors and it remains a goal of ours to expand and offer programs of this nature for adults in future.

- **Expand community education and promotion of health benefits of recreation and leisure.**

This is an ongoing goal and we have continued to collaborate and work with the various community health organizations in our community to educate the public and promote the benefits of an active, healthy lifestyle. We have continued to expand and update our website and use it as a tool to help educate community residents on the benefits and importance of an active, healthy lifestyle. Currently we have developed programs with the Vancouver Coastal Health authority and the Windermere Family of schools that encourage community residents to be active on a regular basis and help them to learn the value of recreation and leisure.

The recreation coordinators have continued to develop a values-based approach to sport and recreation that encourages young people to get involved and stay involved in physical activity. This approach emphasizes having fun, socializing, learning and developing skills,

play, character development and creating community through participation in sport and recreation. The values-based philosophy is used in many of our programs and it will continue to be encouraged in the upcoming years. We believe this methodology is effective in encouraging skill development, good values and positive character through participating in recreation and sport as well as helping to deal with the current challenges of inactivity and obesity among young people.

- **Work with the Windermere family of schools (one secondary and 7 elementary) to expand recreation activities for children.**

Currently we have activities scheduled for children after school from Monday to Thursday. (An average of two activities per day is being offered at this time.) We are limited to what we can offer at this time as the Collingwood elementary school has access to half the gym, Mon. to Fri. from 8 am to 4 pm. There are some available times and spaces to expand activities on Fridays and weekends and we are exploring these.

We have been involved with the **Olympic Youth Legacies - Get Out grants** program through the City of Vancouver. We have been successful in acquiring grants for projects such as two Youth led community mural projects and using recycled material from the Renfrew ravine to form a youth percussion band. These one time funding grants act as a catalyst to begin new activities with the idea that we could integrate them into our existing programs in the Renfrew/Collingwood community in the future.

The Child and Youth Friendly initiative, established by the B.C. Society for Children and Youth, has been on hold for the past 2 years due to lack of time and funds to work on a new project. This initiative has operated for the past 4 years at Collingwood in partnership with Renfrew Community Center and the Windermere family of schools. Projects that the youth of our community have taken on include a renovation of the youth center at Renfrew Community Center and mapping existing parks and open play spaces and making recommendations for future improvements that would make these spaces more child and youth friendly.

2007/08 WORK PLAN

In addition to maintaining the existing complement of recreation programs, the following new initiatives will be undertaken:

- **Promotion of programs**

The Recreation Coordinators are working with our Director of Childcare Services to plan a training workshop that would involve a group of 10 to 20 volunteers who would develop skills that would enable them to do outreach into our community to provide residents with up to date information on the services we offer in both recreation and childcare. We feel that this method of promoting our revenue producing programs is very effective and will provide an increase in program attendance.

- **Community involvement**

We believe that residents must be involved in the planning and design of services, and are working toward implementing a community development approach to providing recreation and leisure opportunities for the community. By having a high level of community input and involvement in the planning and development of our recreation program, people are encouraged and motivated to take more responsibility for how recreation and leisure become a part of their lives. Through education and building the capacity of people to provide recreation opportunities for themselves and their families, we will be achieving our goal of creating an active and healthy community. This community development model will work in concert with our recreation program service delivery model that is used to provide many recreation programs for community members. Although we feel this is a worthwhile goal, one of the key challenges in attaining this goal will be to set aside the time necessary to more effectively engage the community.

Specific activities include: Community art, music and drama initiatives (e.g. banner project), Food Security Project and artist gatherings and presentations.

- **Special Events**

This would involve assisting with Collingwood Days, Moon Festival (art, music, drama, sport and environment), Basketball Tournaments for youth and Community Art projects.

- **Homelessness Project**

Plans are continuing to integrate the homeless into existing recreation programs and develop recreation and leisure opportunities.

- **Families Branching Out**

Family recreation activities under this program comprise of art, music and outdoor trips.

- **Settlement Services**

These services involve linking program participants and their families who are often new to the country to recreation and leisure opportunities.

- **Night-hoops Basketball**

We are working toward establishing a girl's team in the upcoming year.

- **Canoe Club**

We are running the canoe club again this year with one of the goals being to involve more young people and to link them with other recreation and sport opportunities in our community.

- **Hold a community planning session involving the public and key community organizations.**

In order to reach our goals with respect to community outreach and to ensure our recreation programs are responsive to community needs, we are currently organizing a community planning session for recreation.

- **Work with community residents to develop Gardening Programs**

We have not implemented any programs in this area however we are working with the "Food Security Institute" and the "Green-Up, Clean-Up" Committee to determine how to proceed. This could possibly involve seeking community input toward starting a community root-top gardening program to be located on our second floor patio.

- **Recreation Program Development**

Contribute to the development and support of new recreation/leisure activities and programs.

- **Program Coordination**

Contribute to the engaging of two coordinators designated to organize recreation activities for youths and seniors respectively.