

Oxtongue Lake Ratepayers Association

Draft Motion to Council

August 5, 2008

The Oxtongue Lake Ratepayers Association has learned that the Algonquin Highlands TWP Council has requested a staff report on the use and cost of maintaining the Oxtongue Lake Community Centre. It is understood that Council will review the staff report in the fall to determine whether keeping our Community Centre open is a financially viable option for Council. If the Community Centre were to be closed by Council for budgetary reasons, the building and the adjacent land owned by the TWP could be sold.

In light of this possibility, on May 19th, 35 concerned residents of Oxtongue Lake met to discuss the value of the Centre to our community. There was consensus that a submission to Council should be prepared to urge Council to keep the Centre open.

On June 29th, a Canada Day celebration was held at the Community Centre. Nearly 100 ratepayers, their families and friends enjoyed a BBQ served by the Oxtongue Lake Volunteer Firemen and cake and coffee served by volunteers in the Centre. Guests were invited to complete a survey sheet to indicate level of interest in keeping the Centre open and to offer ideas on increasing the Centre's use. 100% of the guests who completed the survey indicated that keeping the Centre open and available was essential to the community, and an impressive list of ideas for future uses of the Centre was compiled from the survey responses.

On July 20th, a public auction organized by a volunteer community committee was held at the Centre and raised \$2,000 to support keeping the Community Centre open.

On July 19th, the Community Centre Committee and members of the OLRA executive met to develop a framework for a community partnership with Council that would address both community and council concerns concerning the Oxtongue Community Centre. This framework discussion identified:

- a shared management model for the community centre,
- options for local participation in the booking and inspection of the centre,
- suggestions for cost savings regarding the annual operation of the centre,
- criteria for charging for the use of the centre, and
- an extensive list of activities and community services that could be conducted at or operate out of the centre.

Motion to Council: That Council direct staff to work with the Oxtongue Lake Ratepayers Association and its Community Centre Committee over the next 3 months to develop a consensus report for Council that addresses the issues and resolves mutual concerns regarding the continued use of the Centre by the local community and with the goal of keeping the Centre open, maintained, and available.