



## TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

## REPORT

Item No.

**REPORT TO:** Reeve Vincent and Members of Council  
**PREPARED BY:** Valerie Watson, Manager of Childcare Services  
**DATE:** 17/09/2018  
**SUBJECT:** Children's Programming Update  
**ATTACHMENTS:** none

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby receives the report from the Manager of Childcare Services, dated September 17, 2018 regarding the children's department.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Manager of Childcare Services provides periodic updates on the activities in the children's department to keep Council informed.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Main Centre:**

Staff have successfully transitioned thirty-seven JK/SK children into their schools. The transition process requires attention to detail as the school boards have staggered entries for JK/SK children. Childcare staff continue to provide full day care until the children are transitioned. The childcare centre was very full the first week in September.

Five new infants recently started. Our program capacity for infants is ten. The infant program is full.

Toddlers are currently using twenty of the available twenty-five spaces. The Childcare Centre has a waiting list from which to fill the remaining five spaces however, a shortage of applicants to fill staff vacancies continues to be a problem.

Preschoolers are currently using twenty-four of the available thirty two spaces. The eight remaining spaces are being held to transition toddlers to the preschool classrooms. The transition from toddlers to preschoolers allows more infants to start in November and December.

There are currently thirty infants on the waitlist and a total of forty-seven children are looking for childcare spaces. The waitlist extends into April and June of next year.

The main centre is currently without a Child Care Clerical Assistant. The position became vacant August 20, 2018 due to a resignation. Discussions have been held with the CAO and permission has been granted to proceed with the filling of this vacancy immediately. Depending on the qualifications of the successful candidate, it may be possible for this individual to assist with other budgeted duties and responsibilities at the Childcare Centre. In the meantime, the Manager of Childcare Services is performing double duty by completing clerical tasks such as billing, deposits and the scheduling of current school age children. The Manager of Childcare Services is also working closely with the Director of Public Works to get the daycare roof replaced by ensuring it is a smooth process for parents, children and the company replacing the roof.

### **Early Learning Centre:**

Eight full time children have moved to the Sacred Heart School Early Learning full day care program. The current enrollment is thirteen of the available sixteen spaces. Some families have had a recent change of plans. The remaining spaces will be filled and there is an additional eight spaces to accommodate JK/SK children during the school's scheduled professional development days. Ten of the available thirteen spaces for the before and after school program at Sacred Heart School are used regularly. Some of the new JK/SK children are also using the school age program. This is positive as these families will likely use the Township's children's services in the days to come.

A new part time staff member has recently been hired to assist with the staff shortage at the Early Learning Centre. She is enjoying the children and the program.

The Township's Early Learning Centre program is due for a license inspection anytime.

### **Maitland River Before and After:**

Maitland River has started off full and strong. The number of children enrolled in the morning program has increased requiring a full staff compliment of four staff to accommodate the full groups. The Maitland River program has 18-20 JK/SK spaces filled of the available twenty six spaces with two staff. There are thirty-five to forty-five primary children requiring three staff some days. Staff had their annual inspection on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> (the first week back to school with no clerical staff). Staff are pleased to report the program passed. All the new children's files, emergency safety plans and staff files were up to date. Staff were asked to post allergy plans and menus. Both of these tasks have been completed.

### **EarlyON:**

Staff completed some new strategies to introduce families to this service over the summer. Staff created "Popup" programs at a few sites. A program was offered in Londesborough, Auburn and Howick. The programs were successful and well received. Staff continue to offer programs in Belgrave, Bluevale, Brussels, Blyth, Gorrie and Wingham. Staff also planned a special day the Emergency Services Training Centre in Blyth for the children.

It is important to note the County continues to flow 100% of the necessary funds to deliver this program. With the change in the Provincial Government, staff are waiting to see if the change in government has any effect on the funding for this program.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There should be no significant impacts on our programs.

### **FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

None at this time.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Goal 4 – Our municipality is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence

Goal 1 – Our community is attractive to new businesses and residents



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Valerie Watson RECE  
Manager of Childcare Services



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Dwayne Evans, CAO