

# District Services Board Notes

## CAO directed to meet with Gore Bay clerk

During the September 27 meeting of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB), the board directed DSB CAO Fern Dominelli to meet with Town of Gore Bay clerk Annette Clarke in regards to the vacant 2.4-acre property owned by the DSB in regards to a possible transfer of ownership for the creation of a seniors' housing complex.

The West End Manitoulin Seniors and Support Services Interest Group, after receiving a \$10,000 grant from the Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation, hired the firm SHS consulting to come up with a business plan which was presented to the DSB at the end of June. The group also requested that the DSB relinquish the plot of land located at the Bayside Apartment property on Water Street in Gore Bay for the home of future seniors housing, as it is one acre in size and relatively close to downtown.

Mr. Dominelli said a meeting would be scheduled soon.

## Island daycares receive provincial funding

The board learned that Manitoulin Family Resources and the Gore Bay Child Care Centre would both be receiving funds from the provincial government to support the centres with the transition and impact of the implementation of full day Kindergarten.

Manitoulin Family Resources applied for and received \$100,000 for its Little Current Public School location for renovations to portables to accommodate and expand the toddler program; renovations to the playground for improvements and expansion to accommodate toddlers; and the development of a business plan and information technology improvements.

Manitoulin Family Resources also applied for \$45,000 for Central Manitoulin Public School for the development of a business plan and information technology improvements.

The Gore Bay Child Care Centre at Charles C. McLean Public School received \$95,162 for loss of revenue (support for the impact of losing 11 children to full day Kindergarten) and a refocus on serving children ages 0-4; retention of staff; the development of a business plan and information technology improvements.

## OPSEU bargaining update

An October 2 and 3 "marathon" bargaining session is expected for this week between the DSB and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union Local 679 representatives, the chair of the human resources committee told the board. The collective agreement between the DSB and Local 679, which represents paramedics, expired on the first of this year.

## Ad-hoc committee on board representation

There was much debate at last week's meeting concerning the ad-hoc committee on board representation and who should pay the expenses, including honoraria.

Gore Bay councillor Lou Addison told the board she didn't think it was fair that municipalities should have to pay the honorarium, and travel expenses, for their DSB members to attend meetings concerning the possible change to board municipal membership. "I represent five different communities and it's not fair to charge those expenses to municipalities," she said.

Jack McMillan, councillor for Espanola, agreed with Ms. Addison, saying that it wasn't fair. "It's a legitimate DSB committee and should be treated as a DSB committee doing very important DSB work."

"When this first came about at the (June) AGM in Killarney, I thought member municipalities would pay, but I realize now how costly it is," said Killarney Mayor Morgan Pitfield. "Board members are entitled to an honourarium as it is time consuming and done on behalf of the DSB."

Mayor of Markstay-Warren Sonja Flynn asked that the motion, passed at the Killarney AGM in regards to municipalities paying the honourarium, be rescinded with the expenses fully covered by DSB.

Central Manitoulin Councillor Derek Stephens said he didn't have a problem with the original resolution and that travel expenses were not the issue, but said the DSB should cover the honourarium.

"When it's DSB work, I can't understand why the DSB isn't paying for it," questioned Ms. Addison.

"The principal of the thing is completely unfair," Mr. McMillan added.

"It's not going to break the DSB," added Espanola Mayor Mike Lehoux.

A recorded vote took place, with Ms. Addison, Mr. Pitfield and Mr. Stephens voting in favour of rescinding the motion and having the DSB pay for all ad-hoc committee expenses while Assiginack Councillor Paul Moffat voted in favour of keeping the status quo.

The motion passed and the honourariums, and travel expenses, will be paid by the DSB.

## CAO second quarter activity report

The DSB 2012 second quarter (unaudited) financial report was presented to the board and projects a year end municipal share surplus of \$111,540, which includes Ontario Works allowances forecasted to be under budget by \$42,936. The municipal share of children's services is also expected to be under budget by \$39,898, social housing by \$59,458 with emergency medical services over budget by \$14,844.