

District Services Board Notes

DSB CAO visits Billings

Manitoulin Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) CAO Fern Dominelli began the November meeting by explaining his recent visit to a meeting of Billings council along with DSB board member and Gore Bay Councillor Lou Addison.

Members of Billings council had many questions prepared for Mr. Dominelli and Ms. Addison on such topics as childcare, full-day Kindergarten, First Nations funding and the DSB (which only comes from ambulance agreements), Ontario Works caseload, strategic plans and the DSB surplus. Mr. Dominelli answered all of their questions and called it a "very productive meeting."

Board hears provincial funding reduction issue report

The board was again reminded of the startling recent reduction in annualized provincial funding. The Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit and the Discretionary Home Repair fund will both be removed from the social assistance system effective January 1, 2013. The Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program

has been completely removed from social assistance and rolled into the Investment in Affordable Housing program, as has the Affordable Housing Northern Repair Program. The former Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program has been consolidated into the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, as has the Emergency Energy Fund and the Rent Bank Fund.

The total reduction in annualized funding as a result is \$1,584,169 for this DSB.

"With the removal of many of these fundamental programs, the Ministry of Community Social Services and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing are putting low income residents and families on social assistance at risk of being homeless and/or creating hardship due to these significant funding cuts," the report states. "The burden both in societal and monetary costs will fall on the shoulders of the municipalities which cannot afford it."

Dawson-Robinson resident becomes newest DSB board member

Members of the DSB recently accepted the resignation of Louise Ross, who

represented the Territory Without Municipal Organization (TWOMO). During the last meeting of DSB the board passed a resolution to install Edgar Lovelace of Silver Water in Ms. Ross' place. The Township of Dawson-Robinson is part of TWOMO. Mr. Lovelace is a retired school teacher.

No changes to board representation

After several meetings of the ad-hoc committee on board representation, it was decided that no change would be made to the representation model at this time.

Ontario Works caseload

In the third quarter of 2012, the Ontario Works caseload average is 431, a decrease of 10 percent from this time last year "which is mostly due to seasonal employment and the success of our educational and employment programs, especially in the Sudbury East area," Mr. Dominelli explained.

Financial report

In a report from director of finance and administration Connie Morphet, she explained to the board that there is a projected year-end surplus of \$128,757.

Ontario Works is under-

budget by \$67,286; Best Start childcare by \$41,358; and social housing by \$105,211. EMS is overbudget by \$76,226.