



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**TO:** Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Ellen Stewart, Youth Recreationist

**MEETING DATE:** September 17, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Report APRAC13-025  
Relocation of the Downtown Youth Space

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## **PURPOSE**

A report to advise of the relocation of the Downtown Youth Space to Peterborough Collegiate Vocational School.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC13-025 dated September 17, 2013, of the Youth Recreationist, as follows:

That Report APRAC13-025 be received for information.

## **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendation of report APRAC13-025. There are sufficient funds within the approved 2010 Capital budget for the Downtown Youth Space (Reference # 6-1.04) to support the \$5,000 capital expenditure associated with the relocation.

## BACKGROUND

In 2007, the City's Recreation Division and Peterborough Youth Council identified the lack of barrier free places and opportunities for youth in the downtown core as a concern. As such, a Downtown Youth Space Advisory Committee was formed. Under the guidance of the Advisory Committee, a research report was initiated to determine the community's need and interest for a permanent Downtown Youth Space (DYS). The research contained in the report clearly supported a recommendation for the provision of a dedicated space for youth in the downtown core.

In 2009, Report APRAC09-008 was presented to the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (APRAC), requesting that they demonstrate their support for the DYS by endorsing the re-establishment of the Downtown Youth Space Advisory Committee. APRAC gave its endorsement and the Downtown Youth Space Committee was re-established, which provided evidence to Council that there was still significant community support for the creation of a DYS.

As part of the 2010 budget deliberations, Council approved a 17-hour per week, year-round operation of a DYS, beginning July 2010. In July 2010 City Staff secured a suitable temporary location through the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, at Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational School (PCVS). The DYS operated out of PCVS gymnasium from July 2010 until June 2011.

Understanding that the PCVS gymnasium was a temporary location, City Staff were able to find a community partner with space that was conducive to program operational hours and activities. A rental agreement was struck with Murray Street Baptist Church and DYS was relocated to the Church in July 2011. DYS has been successfully operating out of the Church since that time. Attendance at the DYS has more than doubled what it was in July 2011. On average there are 25 individuals attending the DYS daily. Attendance exceeds 40 on several nights per month. The increased attendance created concern that the program will outgrow the space within the next year. In addition, the Church had indicated they were actively seeking other community partners, which may result in a re-configuring of space at the Church, which could impact the DYS program.

In early 2013, the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPRDSB) publicly announced they were looking for community partners to occupy space within the PCVS building. This resulted in City Staff having discussions with KPDSB staff, to explore the possibility and suitability of relocating the DYS to the PCVS building. City Staff then made an application to rent space at PCVS, through the KPRDSB's public application process. The application was approved by the KPRDSB, and a lease was entered into. The lease became effective August 1, 2013. For the month of August, the DYS continued to operate at Murray Street Baptist Church, while necessary leasehold improvements were conducted at the PCVS site. The start date for the program at PCVS is September 9, 2013.

The lease provides exclusive use of Classroom #15, as it was identified as the most suitable space for this type of program. In addition to space in Classroom #15, the gymnasium will also be rented on a regular basis. The auditorium is also available for rental by DYS. The DYS program qualifies for free use of the gymnasium and auditorium, as per the Community Use of Schools policy.

The DYS will continue to operate a cooking program every Tuesday evening in the Kitchen at Murray Street Baptist Church.

Submitted by,

Ellen Stewart  
Youth Recreationist

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