



City of
Peterborough

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

From: **Ellen Stewart, Youth Recreationist**

Meeting Date: **April 15, 2014**

Subject: **Report APRAC14-020
Cyber-Seniors Program**

Purpose

A report to inform of the Cyber-Seniors Program, through a presentation by the City's Youth Recreationist.

Recommendation

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC14-020 dated April 15, 2014, of the Youth Recreationist, as follows:

That a presentation on a Cyber Senior Program by the City's Youth Recreationist be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of report APRAC14-020.

Background

What is the Cyber-Seniors Program

Reframe Peterborough International Film Festival was held January 24 to January 26, 2014 in downtown Peterborough. One of the films being showcased was the Canadian documentary, “Cyber-Seniors” an inter-generational comedy. The documentary demonstrates the Cyber-Senior program in action, which involves youth teaching seniors how to use the internet. The program idea came from a high school project launched by two sisters in 2009. The sisters had witnessed first hand how learning about technology had transformed their grandparents’ lives. Inspired by the success that their grandparents experienced, the sisters started the Cyber-Seniors program to help other seniors get online.

Showcasing the film at the festival was intended to inspire the Peterborough community to embrace the program. Given the demographics, Peterborough was seen as a viable community in which to initiate the program.

City Invited to Participate

Prior to the screening at the film Festival, JoAnne Fishburn, Cyber-Seniors Director of Outreach & Partnerships contacted the City in an attempt to connect with key community partners, who could possibly stimulate some interest in the Cyber-Senior film and associated program. On January 21, 2014, Ms. Fishburn met with Ellen Stewart, the Youth Recreationist, to provide a better understanding of how the Peterborough community could play a role in the promotion of the film and eventual delivery of the program. Ms. Fishburn was interested in connecting with the youth in Peterborough who could potentially deliver the program as well as connecting with various Senior Activity Centres and Residences.

During her visit to Peterborough, she was able to meet with members of the Peterborough Youth Council, the Teacher’s Union, and Board Members from Seeds of Change, and staff from Princess Gardens Retirement Residence. Ms. Fishburn was very excited by the interest shown in Peterborough and the potential for the Cyber-Senior program to be implemented.

City Involvement

Ellen Stewart along with City Councillor Andrew Beamer, Chair of the Peterborough Youth Commission attended the screening of the film at the Reframe festival. Subsequently, the Cyber-Senior program was presented at the Peterborough Youth Commission meeting on February 25, 2014. Following the presentation at that meeting, the following motion was passed:

That staff contact JoAnne Fishburn, the lead on the Cyber-Seniors initiative and find out the next steps in implementing this program in Peterborough.

Implementing the program is very straightforward. There are many resources available on the Cyber Senior website to assist with the delivery. Staff has contacted the Program Manager at Peterborough Manor, who has expressed an interest in having this program available for their residents.

Next Steps

Moving forward, the members of the Youth Council will make a short presentation to the members of the Peterborough Youth Commission at the May 27, 2014 meeting, recommending that the Cyber-Seniors program be initiated at Peterborough Manor. With the Commission's approval to proceed, the Youth Council will prepare a detailed presentation of the program for Peterborough Manor staff. If they feel the residents would benefit from the program, the Youth Council members would then begin to map out the key components of initiating the program.

Basic implementation guidelines are as follows:

1. A fun presentation to the residents to introduce the program.
2. Those residents interested would sign up to be part in the mentorship program.
3. Secure computer access.
4. Sessions would then be scheduled throughout July and August.
5. Step by step workbooks are provided for participants and youth mentors.
6. Follow up on Facebook, uploading pictures and comments about the process.
7. Promote the program to other youth.

The Peterborough Council on Aging is very supportive of the Cyber-Senior initiative, and believe it would support making Peterborough more age friendly. June is Senior's Month and there are a number of planned events. Consideration has been given to show the Cyber-Senior documentary at one of those events.

Summary

As the Cyber-Seniors project unfolds, there will be dialogue with the Peterborough Council on Aging, the Youth Commission, and JoAnne Fishburn. The overall goal would be to continue the inter-generational program reaching as many youth and seniors as possible so that the Peterborough community benefits as a whole.

Submitted by,

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Youth Recreationist

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