

Feb 27 2008

PROGRAM PILLAR

Some of the 20 and 21-year-olds wanted a room for exercise weight equipment at the Onaping Falls Community Center. When the Teen Center is open they asked to use the gym for basketball and they're allowed.

There is an open gym night for anyone that wants to come for basketball or volleyball on Monday nights from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The youth came for the first meeting last month but have not come back. It was suggested they could use the exercise room at the Golden age seniors club in Onaping. Councillor Claude Berthiaume said at the last CANs meeting there was comment from one individuals that people of any age can use a Golden Age club but now there is an uproar. It would have to be negotiated with the executive. They want to remain a seniors club. When the executive of the club heard it they asked Claude what right the Community action network had in running their club and saying how facilities are to be used. The issue was never on the agenda of the CANs meeting but a golden age club member wanted to announce that the building is open to younger people. And encourage them to use the facilities.

The CANs group said the youth interested in the gym equipment would have to organized and do fundraising for it. An adequate gym could cost \$60,000. It was suggested that an ad in the paper asking for donations of unused home gym equipment would quickly filled the room. Much laughter. They're all kinds of bikes treadmills and exercise gyms not being used.

Others suggested meeting with the Golden age club and asking if younger people can use the facilities. It could mean more money and more members for the club.

Claude Berthiaume and said that if the exercise room is within the building they would be liability issues. Parks and recreation staff would have to be contacted. Duplicating Dowling recreation center would mean more staff and cost for creating a user pay facility.

Others agreed, the equipment could not be donated. Claude Berthiaume said people could approach the city and discuss the issue. Should we form a subcommittee?

Jana Lahnalampi noted that schools have pillars of interest to create action plans for every school in order to improve. Previously the CANs would focus on one topic at a time such as a grocery store for Levack or a skateboard park. The projects are not of interest to everyone. The pillar concept would allow volunteers to go on a pillar that there interested in. You can meet as a subcommittee and then meet as the large group. One of the pillars should be a program committee to increase programs. In particular we should increase the use of the Onaping Community Center, and get a skateboard park and a workout room here if that's what people want. There's a fantastic program in Calgary called "go girl." Different sports associations would come in for two nights a week to demonstrate what they can do. For instance an archery club comes in and demonstrate for two nights and then if the people wanted they can join that club. Same for golf. 14 to 18 year old girls drop out of organized sports and you end up with higher obesity rates.

90% of the girls in Dowling are smokers said the youth center worker. It's unbelievable. They're doing it because they want to be popular with the boys. Now they are switching from smoking cigarettes to chewing flavored tobacco. It is a big concern in the Onaping in Dowling area. We have given presentations at the youth center but the kids won't show up. We put up signs saying kids can't smoke around the building but they do anyway.

Taylor asked whether volunteers could help with the youth group. The community Center volunteers said they've asked for volunteers to help with the dances and none of the parents would come. We have invited some of the police officers to come to talk to the kids.

Gail Piette said she is from the Play and Chat group. They're not here for the teenagers. They are for the young mothers and their children. They attended a CANs meeting last year brought up two things and heard nothing more about them. They're disappointed with the CAN committee. Young people and preschools need a program that needs to be run by someone said Gail Piette. She has been a volunteer and doing it for four years. She has put in a lot of hours. Play and Chat had a bad reputation. A few years ago it was chaos. The toys were all over the place. Kids were running all over the place. There was no one to monitor it so mothers could have quality time to interact with other mothers. Her friend who came to the meeting is new to the area and said Play and Chat is where she's meeting people.

Gail Piette has been looking after the program and has asked other mothers to take over but they said it's too much work. They started the program in the gym but it was too much work putting the toys away, then they got a small room in the Onaping Community Center.

At times the room is too small.

In the spring when the bears came out she tried to extend the program to more than two days a week. They need the money to find somebody to do the job.

Gail Piette said she's willing to work on the program but does not feel she can continue to volunteer.

The gym is perfect for most activities but they need the other room for snacks too. Gail Piette has been supplying the toys and anything they need from her own pocket. She is willing to run the program more often three or four times a week.

Councillor Claude Berthiaume asked if they had talked to the school board for funding. Jana Niemi Lahalampi said their used to be Kindicenters but that was canned in Levack. She started the original Play and Chat. Councillor Claude Berthiaume said they're still running it through some of the Catholic schools in Chelmsford. They have a program and could have money for staff.

Gail Piette said then it would have to be run out of the school but they like it where it is.

She wanted to know who to talk to. They were allowed to go to the daycare in the Levack public school last year and it worked good but eventually there was not enough room. Parents were not enjoying it it was too hectic. If they have more than 10 or 12 it becomes too busy.

Councillor Claude Berthiaume asked for their phone number and said he would try to do something.

Computers

Leona Dawe wants beginner computer courses for people in this area. The city has a person that will come to the libraries and work with you for an hour. However you're supposed to have questions to ask. How can you do that if you don't know about computers. There is lots to learn. We need someone to do the job.

Scott Sagle who runs a computer business from his home in Levack said he has now 10 computers in his basement to donate. His is waiting for the St. John's United Church to take them. The idea was to use them to tutor children using a software program that was available in the schools but is now no longer part of their program. The church could find no one to take on the project.

The team center in Dowling wants some computers. They been asking for two years. We have discussed it with Jeff Pafford and he suggested using the library in Dowling. There is room in both youth centers for the computers said the team center leader.

Scott Sagle said there is potential for computers in a room of that size. There are educational

programs for beginners on computers. He said the city is sure to have copies of them. Others suggested students could teach the seniors. All the kids want to volunteer their hours for high school. The problem is they don't have access to the computers.

Taylor asked if there is an adult education program in this community. An organization that runs adult programs. The group would have a list of programs and people volunteering to do the courses and put out a flyer twice a year to get people interested. Stained glass, cooking, fitness, beginner computer courses, e-mail for seniors. In the town he came from in Alberta (Smoky Lake) it was called the Community Learning Council. They have been doing it for over 25 years. The central group doesn't teach but they keep it organized.

Jana Niemi Lahnalampi said programming should be yet another CAN's pillar. Once a month we should have community action network meetings and in between them other pillar meetings.