

ErinoakKids centre seeks major redevelopment

With growing demand for service and aging facilities, agency in dire need of upgrades, says president/CEO

By Christina Commisso
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

growing wait list, ErinoakKids is in desperate need for redevelopment.

The agency serves more than 10,000 disabled children in southern Ontario, 3,000 of

which reside in Halton. As the largest children's treatment centre in the province, demand for its services grow about 10 per cent a year, but rapid growth in Halton and Peel regions has exacerbated the demand.

In Milton and Brampton, the demand is rising 20 per cent yearly.

More than 2,000 of Ontario's most vulnerable kids are waiting for services from the agency, about 650 are from Halton. And depending on what services they're in need of, some families could find themselves waiting for up to two years.

Tough times for centre: CEO

"The reality of it is we've had to go out and rent sites in office buildings and then convert that space to treat children with disabilities. And it's really not optimal space for treating those children," said Bridget Fewtrell, ErinoakKids president and CEO.

Following a recent presentation to the Region's health and social services committee, Fewtrell asked the committee to voice its support for the \$168 million redevelopment project to the Province, to which members agreed.

Fewtrell said the organization spends almost \$2.5 million a year to lease eight sites in their service areas (Halton, Peel and Dufferin) and it owns one site in Mississauga. In Halton, ErinoakKids rents offices in Oakville and Burlington.

The organization is proposing to build three new sites — in Oakville, Mississauga and Brampton — to meet the mounting demand. Fewtrell says the money saved on rent can be used to expand services and staff, and cut wait times.

"With nine sites, you can probably imagine there's lots of travel between sites and we have to move clinicians around a lot," said Fewtrell.

And it's not just the clinicians that are being moved around. Without sufficient

space in the retrofitted office buildings, rooms have to constantly be revamped for different types of therapy. The time it takes to set up and take down equipment in a room could be up to two hours, and Fewtrell says that time could be better spent helping more children.

Many of the sites lack accessible washrooms and the elevators are too small for some of the equipment patients use. Also, many of the sites are not accessible by public transit and lack outdoor space for the young clientele.

"With three sites appropriately placed to meet needs, we could save significantly in travel costs, heating and lighting and all those auxiliary costs that really add up over time," she said.

In wait-and-see mode

In 2009 ErinoakKids was given \$1 million from the Ministry of Children and Youth to create a business case for the redevelopment. The organization is now waiting on the Province to release its 10-year infrastructure plan of high-priority projects.

Fewtrell says over two decades, the cost of not moving forward with the redevelopment will end up being 69 per cent more than redeveloping.

"Over the next 25 years we can redirect a significant portion of our operating budget being used to lease back into the delivery of care."

If approved, the Oakville site will be 61,360 square-feet and carry 30 per cent of the agency's workload.

Fewtrell said about a year of planning and three years of construction would be needed until the redevelopment is complete.

The Province is expected to release the 10-year infrastructure plan within the coming weeks.

Christina Commisso can be reached at ccommisso@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

www.miltoncanadianchampion.com • MILTON CHAMPION Thursday, April 7, 2011 • A4

TODAY'S STUDENTS... TOMORROW'S LEADERS

JK-Grade 6

The Region's only IB Primary Years Programme

Grade 7-12

Full Pre-University Upper School including
Grade 7/8 Middle Years Programme

Attend our next Community
Presentation:

Milton/Campbellville

Monday, April 18, 20117pm

Hugh Foster Hall, 141 King St., Milton

SJK is now an IB Diploma
Candidate School.



St. John's-
Kilmarnock
SCHOOL

519-648-2183
www.sjkschool.org

Located minutes from Guelph, Waterloo, Kitchener
and Cambridge with transportation available.



THE LEADING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL IN OUR COMMUNITY

The ocean's not complicated.
Your salt water pool shouldn't be either.



Do you have a salt pool or are you looking to
convert to a salt pool?

Cannonball Pools is hosting a **FREE SALT POOL CLINIC** to teach
you the truth about salt pools and how to properly maintain perfect feeling
water while protecting your equipment in a salt pool atmosphere.

Let the professionals show you how to transform your salt water pool back into what
it was supposed to be-your very own oasis.

Location:
Cannonball Pools
100 Nipissing Rd. Unit 10

Date: Wed. April 13
Time: 7:00pm
Cost: FREE
Please RSVP: 905-864-3311

Call to
book your
Pool
Opening



DAZZLE
HEALTHIER, MORE NATURAL WATER CARE

CANNONBALL POOLS



Jamie Perry

Shane Bailey

100 NIPISSING RD., UNIT #10, MILTON 905-864-3311

Being there is why we're here.

Today's chances of surviving a life-altering illness are greatly improving. But the costs associated with a lengthy recovery can affect your family's financial future. Critical Illness insurance from RBC® can help protect your family's lifestyle when the unexpected occurs. CALL FOR YOUR QUOTE TODAY.



Don MacRae

Bus: 905-878-8109

don.macrae.ggvt@statefarm.com



Anita Cutaia

Bus: 905-878-8871

anita.cutaia.ggvr@statefarm.com

State Farm agents offer this product through a marketing agreement between SF Insurance Placement Corporation of Canada and RBC Life Insurance Company. This product is marketed under the brand name RBC Insurance and underwritten and issued by RBC Life Insurance Company, which is financially responsible for this product. No member of the State Farm family of companies is financially responsible for this product. RBC Life Insurance Company is not an affiliate of State Farm. RBC Insurance is a registered trademark of Royal Bank of Canada. Used under licence. Contact your State Farm agent for details on coverage, costs, restrictions and renewability.



State Farm

statefarm.ca