

Funding boost needed to keep Essex Community Services branch afloat

BY DANIEL SCHWAB

The future of Essex Community Services' Harrow office is uncertain as the provincial grant funding fueling the organization is set to run out in November, Essex council was told last week.

The King Street East office, which has been made possible by an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, needs \$34,000 to operate on

a three day per week basis, said Sean McGivern, a spokesperson for ECS.

Although McGivern didn't make a formal request to council for more funding, he did ask that the office be considered as a future beneficiary of a grant.

"We're not exactly sure about the future of our organization," McGivern said. "We want to continue to fulfill our goals."

The organization is cur-

rently funded by the town, the Ministry of Health, and United Way/Centraide.

United Way/Centraide cuts over the past year have reduced funding to ECS by about \$18,000.

Essex Community Services started in 1975 and offers information and referral services, security reassurance for seniors, housing information, a job kiosk and a Care-a-Van transportation vehicle for

people with disabilities.

The Harrow Care-a-Van offered about 7,000 rides last year.

McGivern said the information and referral services responded to nearly 6,000 requests from April to January of last year.

"This organization is all about making a difference in people's lives without a lot of fanfare," he said. "They are personal services."

ECS is also a satellite location for the Community Crisis Centre of Windsor-Essex County, Hiatus House, the Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, Children's Crisis Service, the Alzheimer's Society of Windsor-Essex County and Family Services of Windsor-Essex County.

"It's unfortunate because people will want our services and we won't be able to help them," said ECS

representative Claudette Gauthier.

McGivern said ECS has been looking at a number of options for the Harrow branch and told council that if the municipality opens an office in the south, they "would like to be a part of that venture."

Mayor Ron McDermott said council should be looking at ways of securing office space in Harrow for the organization.

County receives \$218K from Trillium Fund

Five community organizations in Essex County will receive \$218,000 in grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Essex MPP Bruce Crozier announced Friday.

Lakeshore Community Services will receive \$108,200 to aid in providing resources to help the organization build its capacity.

"This increase in awareness will bring more resources to the agency so the staff and board of directors can continue to offer the high quality services throughout all of our many programs," said executive director Glenys Betts in a

news release.

Kingsville's Migration Hall will also benefit from the grant, receiving \$75,000 to purchase upgraded sound equipment.

The Essex County Ravens Football Club will receive \$20,000 to go toward purchasing equipment for a new team for kids up to age 14.

The Friends of Pike Creek will receive \$8,000 for tools and supplies for annual cleanup projects and the remaining \$6,500 of the grant funding will go toward the Belle River Minor Baseball Association for new equipment.

4-H News

4-H Dairy Club

BY REBECCA ROCHELEAU

On Tuesday, April 3, the 4-H Dairy Club had their meeting at Hy-Mark Farms. Craig started the meeting. The minutes were approved and then the club was split into three groups.

Brian started my group off in the feed room where we talked about diseases and parasites. We discussed how to cure the diseases while Brian passed around three different medicines. He also showed us the tools he uses to de-horn the heifers and the reason they de-horn the heifers.

We then moved onto Bernard who announced that we were all vets. He showed us how the vet or farmer

checks if the cow is healthy or not. We were shown how to take a cow's temperature and listened to a cow's heart and stomachs. For those of you who didn't know, a cow has four stomachs; the abomasum, the omasum, the reticulum and the rumen.

My group then moved on to Roger and Mark. They asked us questions about what we knew about pneumonia and diarrhea in calves. No one could really answer the questions so we learned a lot about those sicknesses in a calf. Roger and Mark then said that because we learned so much that if they went away for the weekend and left us in charge, when they came back all the calves would still be alive. We weren't so sure.

After all the learning that had gone on in the meeting that night we needed to refuel our brains with "dum da dum" milk and cookies! Chocolate milk actually, which is even better!

4-H Poultry Club

BY CHELSEA BRIAN

At the poultry club's second meeting on March 26 the leaders explained how to prepare your brooder for your new chicks. You should use wood shavings for chickens (not sawdust) and newspaper for turkeys. They also need a light bulb in their cage to keep them warm and a blanket over top of the cage. One of the leaders also mentioned that you shouldn't let your chicks peck at each other because if they draw blood, they'll become cannibals and eat each other! Isn't that great!

After all that serious stuff, we got to the fun part of the meeting, the anticipated ... Egg Creation Thingie Competition! The egg creations ranged from horse, people, frogs, cowboys, and even sumo wrestlers! Everyone got really creative that night, and although there were several very different ones, the winners turned out to be Cheyenne in

1st, Rachel in 2nd and Shannon in 3rd.

At the end of the meeting, we got to snack on the vegetables that we didn't use to make our egg creations, and we also got some chips and pop. Everyone got a photocopied article about the egg salad sandwich (with recipes), and instructions on how to prepare a hard-boiled egg.

4-H Weaving Club

BY DARREN MAYVILLE

It was a nice, crisp dusk on the 10th of April when I was opening the car door and walked to the side door of the museum for our 6th meeting of the 4-H Weaving Club. I was on my way downstairs with my loom and picked a spot next to Bonnie, the treasurer of the club, to do my weaving. Yet again I spent the beginning of the meeting fixing my mistakes.

After the business meeting, we went downstairs and worked the rest of the meeting on weaving. Members were busy beating their looms and changing and lifting their levers creating a lot of racket while doing so. We were treated to Rachel's vanilla muffins and Katie served us drinks.

Moments after that the meeting was adjourned. But that was not the end of the weaving. What do you mean, you ask? Well Germaine thought it would be a good idea to take the loom home as she felt we needed the extra time to finish our project. Keep weaving till you drop!

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