

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

24 SEPTEMBER 2008

**Repayment of the Interim Financing for
the Community Safety Village of York Region**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Board receive this report; and
2. That the Board forward this information to Regional Council through the Finance and Administration Committee.

SYNOPSIS

As a result of considerable fundraising efforts during the past year, I am pleased to report the outstanding loan of \$500,000 has been repaid to The Regional Municipality of York in accordance with the terms of the interim financing agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding of the interim financing of \$500,000 was provided from the Region General Capital Reserve in March 2003. It was used by the original Board of Directors of the Community Safety Village of York Region to finance the ongoing construction.

At the time of assuming responsibility for the Community Safety Village of York Region in May 2005, the financial position was as follows:

Original Financing from the Region of York	\$500,000
Outstanding Payments to Contractors	<u>\$727,230</u>
Total Debts Assumed	\$1,227,230

The second interim financing of \$300,000 was used by the Police Services Board to pay outstanding invoices to the subcontractors. The second amount of financing was only required for a short period of time and was repaid as soon as sufficient donation and fundraising efforts were realized. During the past three and a half years, over \$1.3 million dollars has been raised to retire the outstanding debt of the Community Safety Village.

An extension of the interim financing term to September 1, 2008, was approved by Regional Council at its meeting of September 27, 2007. On August 27, 2008, a transfer of \$500,000 was made from the Community Safety Village of York Region fundraising account as repayment of this loan.

BACKGROUND

On March 27, 2003, Regional Council approved an interest free loan to the Community Safety Village of York Region of up to \$500,000. The purpose of the loan was to assist in the construction of a facility to educate children, teens, seniors and those with special needs on safety issues. The loan was to provide interim financing until funds were received from donations and sponsorships of building sites on the property. Council approved this request and \$500,000 was advanced to Community Safety Village of York Region on June 30, 2004. Due to delays in construction and receipt of donations, Council extended the repayment date to September 1, 2005.

On May 5, 2005, the Police Services Board assumed responsibility for the Community Safety Village of York Region, thereby assuming responsibility for all of its liabilities and obligations including the original \$500,000 loan advanced by the Region. As a result of additional cost overruns, project set-backs and delays in the receipt of charitable donations and sponsorships, Regional Council approved the Police Services Board request for an additional \$300,000 of interest free interim financing. An extension of the repayment term to September 1, 2007, was also granted to accommodate fundraising initiatives. On September 27, 2007, a further one year extension was approved by Regional Council in order to allow the final fundraising efforts of approximately \$365,000 to commence.

By providing this support, Regional Council has allowed the Police Services Board to complete the facility and provide an important means for educating our youth and citizens on matters of safety. Since the Grand Opening on May 14, 2005, the Community Safety Village of York Region has welcomed over 95,000 people to take part in one of its life saving injury prevention programs. Over the past 4 years, our core business programs have expanded to include children in grades 1 to 5 who participate in traffic safety, bicycle safety, fire prevention and safety, 9-1-1 education, internet safety and emergency preparedness programs. From the original proposed facility, we have also added 5 additional miniature buildings, a picnic pavilion and a peace tree garden. Plans are currently underway to add wheelchair accessible playground equipment, a faux pool and amphitheatre to teach water safety, as well as additions to our Peace Tree program.

Participants at the Safety Village have increased over the past four years due to several factors including the expansion of our programs to include a Grade 5 program for Internet Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

Year	Number of Participants
2005	15,703
2006	25,952
2007	34,170
2008 to date	20,081

The Community Safety Village has played host to several special events, including the Police Week Open House, Halloween in the Village, Holidays in the Village, the Children's Wishmaker Parade and several education forums hosted by various York Regional Police Units. One of the highlights of the year is hosting the York Regional Police Leo McArthur Youth Leadership Camp, as well as the York Regional Police Youth Opportunities Camp. These camps were run for 4 weeks this past summer and welcomed over 150 children. The community room has been used for several York Regional Police workshops and seminars such as Guns & Gangs Forums, YRP Business Planning Workshop and Sexual Assault Awareness Forum.

The total value of this project was approximately \$4.4 million dollars and today the facility is estimated to be worth in excess of \$5.1 million dollars. The Village was constructed on 6 acres of land leased from the Toronto and Region Conversation Authority over two 20-year terms. It consists of a 10,000 square foot learning facility with a large community room and 3 classrooms. In addition, there are 32 miniature buildings, a playground structure, a large picnic pavilion, the peace tree garden and paved parking lot. Several of the miniature buildings have a finished interior to allow for additional educational lessons to take place in the areas of internet safety, bus safety, cyber bullying and general household injury prevention.

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Chief of Police

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