

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 20, 2005**

### **FUTURE ACCOMMODATION OF PINE YORK SENIORS CLUB**

#### **Recommendation:**

Councillor Tony Carella recommends that the Commissioner of Community Services be directed to explore any opportunities for cost efficiencies occasioned by the expiration in 2006 of the premises currently leased by the City of Vaughan for use by the Pine York Seniors Club.

#### **Economic Impact:**

Nil.

#### **Purpose:**

To ensure that the future interests of both the City of Vaughan and of the Pine York Seniors Club are attended to in a timely fashion, staff require sufficient time to explore any opportunities for achieving cost efficiencies relative to space requirements and alternative premises availability.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options:**

The Pine York Seniors Club is the oldest such club in the City of Vaughan (see attachment 1), having been established in 1986 at its present location in a commercial plaza southwest of the intersection of Pine Valley Drive and Regional Road 7. The premises are comprised of a 1000 sq. ft. general purpose room on the main floor and a kitchen, washrooms, storage and limited program space at the basement level, accessed by one stairway at the rear of the facility. The premises are leased, at an approximate cost of \$1500 per month.

The club has a roster of over one hundred individuals (see attachment 2), some of whom have been members for a number of years. These older, and frailer, members in particular find the present premises problematic, as the need to access the program space or washroom facilities in the basement means they may have to use the stairs several times during any one visit. In this regard there are reports that several members have ceased to attend for fear of the consequences of a fall in the stairwell. In addition, the size of the facility restricts the number and nature of the programs which can be offered at this site. For example, very frequently much of the furniture must first be cleared to permit certain activities (e.g., exercise classes), and then set up once again to permit others (e.g., the playing of cards).

Executive members of the club recently brought a number of these issues to the attention of the local councillor (see attachment 3) and of Building & Facilities and Recreation staff (see attachment 4), who are seeking solutions as best they can, given the size and configuration of the current premises. As the lease on these premises is due to expire in 2006, an opportunity to explore alternative accommodations for this club is at hand and should be seized. It is also to be noted that in keeping with new arrangements being proposed for other, expanded facilities for similar groups, the Pine York executive committee was asked if they had any objection to sharing a larger facility with other community groups, and indicated they had no such objection.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007:**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

**Conclusion:**

The pending expiration of the lease on the premises occupied for nearly twenty years by the Pine York Seniors Club represents an opportunity to explore solutions to a number of issues relating to the size and configuration of the current facility.

**Attachments:**

1. History of the Pine York Seniors Club
2. Roster of current members
3. Letter to local councillor, dated April 20, 2005
4. Issues raised by the executive committee of the Pine York Seniors Club at its meeting with City of Vaughan staff, June 10, 2005

**Report prepared by:**

Councillor Tony Carella

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Tony Carella

### History of Pine York Seniors Club

On October 18, 1986 the Pine York Seniors Club went into operation at 2 Tall Grass Trail, Unit #2. The 'statement of purpose' was to provide services for seniors citizens of Woodbridge, and to enrich their 'Golden Years'. The executive members were elected for a 2 year term and they were:

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| President      | Michael Spagnuolo  |
| Vice-President | Leo Santo          |
| Secretary      | Bonnano Ignazio    |
| Treasurer      | Giuseppe Tusa      |
| Volunteers:    |                    |
|                | Filipina Leo       |
|                | Lorretta Tersigni  |
|                | Giovanna D'Anofrea |
|                | Lucia Spagnuolo    |

The club had at that time 70 members. The member's fee was \$5.

The Town of Vaughan grant the club received was \$200, and with that money they purchased a coffee urn for \$45 and \$95 was spent for miscellaneous equipment and supplies, such as: cards, bingo cards, coffee supply and stationary. Since the club started in October, no member's fees were collected. The balance of the bank account on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1986 was \$60.

In 1987 the club began with 70 members and membership fees were collected, \$5 per member in the amount of \$350. The club had 3 parties, throughout the year it is not clear as to how the parties were funded, however, the cost of the parties was shown in the club financial record as \$200 each. There was also a radio purchased for \$600 and under equipment and supplies for \$550. The club asked for a Monetary Contribution of Operating costs and received an additional \$2,000. The club activities were described as card playing and parties.

In the years 1987 and 1988, the executives remained the same; however, there was a change in the club activities. In 1987 a community grant of \$1200 was received, the expenditures were for: a senior's picnic, an anniversary party, a Christmas party, flowers and transportation. The balance at the bank that year was \$581.09. In 1988 the ladies activities started with 'Ladies program' which cost the club \$500, however, there was no description of the type of program. A meeting was held on January 19, 1988, under the heading of 'Ladies Programme', Gina has found an instructor, and was meeting with the instructor to secure times and dates. The members still had the usual parties and it also had 'out trip' which cost \$1,500. There was also 2 checker sets purchased in the amount of \$200. An additional Monetary Contribution to Operating Costs was received in the amount of \$6,000. The balance at the end of 1988 was \$2,324.

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A definite increase in membership throughout 1988, to 92 members and in 1989 it had dropped down to 87. The membership fee had been increased to \$6. The usual parties and 'out trips' were held and in 1988 the club had started to donate \$100 to Senior's Federation Fund. A Transportation expenditure of \$200 for each year and a Monetary Contribution was received in the amount of \$4,545.

In 1990 and 1991, the executives were still the same. The member's fee had dropped back to \$5. I'm not sure if there was actually a great increase in members or it may have been fabricated, however, the membership in 1990 was 100 members. The same type of parties was held. The Seniors Federation Fund increased to \$150, excluding the Transportation expenditure all together in 1990. A Monetary Contribution was received in the amount of \$1,428. No other activities were mentioned at all.

In 1991 a community grant was received in the amount of \$500. Member's fee was \$6. Membership had increased to 125 (still very high or may have been fabricated). The executives were still the same. No mention of ladies activities or programs, just a Christmas party and out-trip. The Seniors Federation dropped down to \$50. In 1992 membership had increased to 150 (again very high), same executives. An additional grant of \$1240 was requested. A Christmas party and an out trip for the year was the only expenditure. No donation to the Seniors Federation was made. The balance at the end of the year was \$1,240. Again no other activities mentioned.

It wasn't until the year 1993 and 1994 that there was a considerable change. A grant of \$500 and an additional grant of \$1,240 had been requested. The Executives changed as follows:

Secretary	Michele Iannetta
Volunteers	Adelmo Lombardo Luigi Di Girolamo Iolanda Di Girolamo Agostino Liberato Filippina Leo

Under an application of a "New Horizon Grant", which listed supplies needed for the operation of the club as well as craft supplies and a craft instructor in the amount of \$780. Under number of participants, it was noted: 25 women for a fitness class, 25 women for a dance class, 50 for instruction in English as a second language, also arts and crafts, attendance of 30 and social gatherings of 100 per month, and playing cards 5 times a week. Also noted under the description of New Horizon Project, it was also noted a 'Fitness Program', and a Knitting and Crocheting for Women's Program.

There was no paperwork on file between the years of 1995 and 2000. I do know however, by talking to some of the older seniors members that the executives were the

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same and so were the programs. There was a change on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2000 where Mr. Spagnuolo stepped down as President due to poor health.

The newly elected executives for the year 2002 and 2004 were:

President	Joe Corriero
Vice President & Treasurer	Carol Donadio
Secretary	John Bartolotta
Councillor	Filomena Di Vita
Councillor	Mario Panniccia
Councillor	Adelmo Lombardi
Councillor	Ida Tersigni
Councillor	Pina Spatafora
Councillor	Pierina Abate

The club still continues with the same functions. Exercise classes are held twice weekly and during the years have been upstairs, a partition separating the room for some privacy. Casino trips are planned at the members' request, usually 4 times a year, the fee \$1/person, used for tipping the driver. An annual picnic is organized, attendance of 40 members, a fee of \$10/member was charged, non members pay \$12. There is also a Christmas Party held at the seniors club and on an average about 40 to 45 people attend. The fee varies as to the menu and it is fully paid by the members and non members

Year 2004 Executives are as follows:

President	Carol Donadio
Vice President	Isabella Ferrara
Secretary/Treasurer	Zunilda Farace
Councillor	John Bartolotta
Councillor	Filomena Di Vita
Councillor	Angela Conte
Councillor	Vittorio De Caprio
Volunteer	Joe Corriero

To date we have 100 members. The member's fee was increased by \$1 bringing it to \$7. The increase was 'to better the services for the seniors'. The parties are still the same the members pay whatever the expense is. On occasion the club will divert the cost, e.g. if the meal cost \$12, the members pay \$10 and the club pays the \$2. The non-members pay

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the full price. Trips to the Casino are quite famous and are planned every month or every three months depending on the members. We still charge \$1/person, this goes towards the tip for the driver. Last year a trip to Mamma Mia was planned and was successful, 35 members attended, the members paid their own way.

The highlight of Tuesday and Thursday is the Bingo game. Tuesday is the day that many members can attend and it has attracted as many as 40 members. It was played downstairs but very cramped and extremely warm and also unsafe.

We have on average 6 to 10 members who participate in fitness classes. It would be a greater number if the place was larger. The exercise classes were originally done upstairs divided by a partition for some privacy it has since moved downstairs. It is still a safety hazard as it is too small of an area to move around, gets really hot, and then the most important of all no exit door from downstairs.

The Executive members have met on a monthly basis to discuss this concern with Art Mastantuono. A letter of concern was sent to Councillor Tony Carella of Ward 2 after of our member called the Fire Department a copy of this letter is attached.

This is a very important issue to a growing seniors club, to have a place that is adequate and safe for us.

If you need additional information please feel free to contact me.

Isabella Ferrara  
Vice-President  
Pine York Seniors Club

PINE YORK SENIORS CLUB -- 2005 MEMBERS

- |     |                       |     |                       |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 1.  | Abate, Pierina        | 45. | Galifi, Giuseppe      |
| 2.  | Aligustino, Liberto   | 46. | Gallo, Vito           |
| 3.  | Armata, Antonia       | 47. | Genovese, Elvira      |
| 4.  | Bartolotta, John      | 48. | Giannetti, Elisabetta |
| 5.  | Bellantone, Domenica  | 49. | Genua, Caterina       |
| 6.  | Brutto, Aldo          | 50. | Genua, Giulio         |
| 7.  | Ciarouullo, Alfredo   | 51. | Giroto, Ottavio       |
| 8.  | Cimini, Bianca        | 52. | Gismondi, Domenica    |
| 9.  | Cimini, Raffaele      | 53. | Gismondi, Michele     |
| 10. | Caterina Cirillo      | 54. | Greco, Michelangelo   |
| 11. | Cirillo, Nicola       | 55. | Guaragna, Maria       |
| 12. | Combarlato, Franca    | 56. | Guida, Antonio        |
| 13. | Consiglio, Angela     | 57. | Iannetta, Michele     |
| 14. | Conte, Angela         | 58. | Iannetta, Nick        |
| 15. | Corriero, Joe         | 59. | Kovach, Lorenza       |
| 16. | Corriero, Margherita  | 60. | Leo, Filippina        |
| 17. | Cramarossa, Grazia    | 61. | Le Rose, Salvatore    |
| 18. | Cocuzzo, Giovanna     | 62. | Lombardi, Adelmo      |
| 19. | D'Angelo, Luciano     | 63. | Lombardi, Pierino     |
| 20. | De Caprio, Angelina   | 64. | Lucia, Saverio        |
| 21. | De Caprio, Vittorio   | 65. | Mandarino, Franco     |
| 22. | Del Bel, Dorina       | 66. | Marcantuoni, Giovanna |
| 23. | De Simone, Angelo     | 67. | Marchello, Giuseppina |
| 24. | Di Giamarino, Tomasso | 68. | Messina, Gaetana      |
| 25. | Di Giamarino, Luigi   | 69. | Messina, Salvatore    |
| 26. | Di Girolamo, Yolanda  | 70. | Micalizzi, Bernardo   |
| 27. | Di Palma, Nunziata    | 71. | Micalizzi, Caterina   |
| 28. | Di Palma, Raffaele    | 72. | Mirabella, Clara      |
| 29. | Di Pede, Ede          | 73. | Mirandolal, Franco    |
| 30. | Di Vito, Filomena     | 74. | Mongillo, Giuseppe    |
| 31. | Di Vito, Giulia       | 75. | Nudo, Santo           |
| 32. | Donadio, Caroline     | 76. | Paniccia, Gioconda    |
| 33. | Donadio, Mario        | 77. | Paniccia, Mario       |
| 34. | Donadio, Ulderica     | 78. | Parisi, Luisa         |
| 35. | Fantauzzi, Anna       | 79. | Perricone, Giuseppe   |
| 36. | Fantauzzi, Giuseppe   | 80. | Perricone, Maria      |
| 37. | Farrace, Zunilda      | 81. | Petrilli, Egle        |
| 38. | Ferrara, Isabella     | 82. | Piacente, Giuseppe    |
| 39. | Ferrara, Vincent      | 83. | Pontillo, Antonio     |
| 40. | Ferritto, Vittoria    | 84. | Poretta, Maria        |
| 41. | Filipelli, Luigi      | 85. | Poretta, Nick         |
| 42. | Fragassi, Anna        | 86. | Priore, Francesca     |
| 43. | Fusco, Antonia        | 87. | Priore, Saverio       |
| 44. | Galifi, Anna          | 88. | Pucciano, Antonietta  |

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89. Romano, Giacomo
90. Saliani, Fedele
91. Saliani, Maria
92. Singh, Resham
93. Spatafora, Giuseppina
94. Tangredi, Maria Giuseppa
95. Tersigni, Ida
96. Tusa, Caterina
97. Venditti, Maria
98. Verrilli, Giuseppe
99. Volante, Damiano
100. Zinni, Donato
101. Zinni, Giulia

Revised: June 8, 2005

ATT. 3

**Pine York Seniors Club  
2 Tall Grass Trail  
Woodbridge, Ontario  
L4L 3Y9  
905) 832-5632**

April 20, 2005

Mr. Tony Carella  
Councilor Ward 2  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1T1

Dear Councilor Carella,

I am writing to advise you that the location our club occupies has become a safety hazard for our growing club members. We are now 94 members and growing. At present the men occupy the upper level almost every day of the week, and the women use the premises on Tuesday and Thursday to do exercise upstairs and play Bingo downstairs. There are two exits on the upper level and no exit from the lower level. It is quite a chore to some seniors to descend to the lower level, as many walk with canes, and of course they are getting older and move slower. We are all very concerned and feel the lower level is very dangerous should an emergency arise as it will be almost impossible to rush out of the lower level.

Yesterday we met with Art Mastantuono to find a temporary solution to our concerns. It was decided by the committee to move the tables and chairs upstairs so that the Bingo would be played upstairs, and the lower level will be used for exercise classes. We moved as much as we could but some furniture has to be moved downstairs. Art will have maintenance staff remove the excess furniture out. We were all upstairs, 45 of us, playing Bingo and cards and very cramped.

A club member, Mr. Joe Piacente, took it upon himself to call the Fire Department and have the premises inspected. They will probably come and check the place at any given time. The report will be sent you as soon as they have checked the place out.

On behalf of the club membership we would like to meet with you and discuss this matter further at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,

Carol Donadio  
President  
Pine York Seniors Club

cc: Diane LaPointe -- Kay  
Director of Recreation and Culture

PINE YORK SENIORS CLUB

1. Safety level
  - a. bathroom should be on upper level
  - b. no exit door on lower level
  - c. lower level, too small of an area to exercise in
  - d. upper level is 1,000 square feet.
  
2. Growing community of older adults
  - a. anticipate 10 new members by the fall
  - b. a newsletter to welcome new members will be sent in the fall of 2005
  - c. all seniors enjoy to have a place to spend a few hours and socialize not feel so isolated at home.
  
3. We require a larger place close to our present location. Many of our members walk to the club as they don't have a car.
  
4. If we have a new larger space, we can involve seniors to participate in different areas of interest.
  - a. Hold larger social events in-house
  - b. Invite other seniors clubs to our social events
  - c. Bring together seniors groups by holding seminar and guest speakers to help senior needs.

The purpose of a Seniors Club is to provide services to senior citizens and to enrich their "Golden Years".