

Regional Councillor Report

Submitted by: Colleen Jordan, Regional Councillor Wards 3 & 4

Date: Apr. 13,, 2015

Regional Council – April 1, 2015

Health & Social Services

Regional Council endorsed the Dufferin- Guelph Public Health motion to request that the Ontario government take action to reduce the consumption of high calorie, low nutrient beverages, and in particular energy drinks for children. The concern about rising usage of energy dinks is the sugar and caffeine content which can contribute to acute physical and mental health conditions.

The “No Time To Wait: Healthy Kids Strategy (2013) made recommendations to:

- Ban the marketing of high calorie, low nutrient foods, beverages and snacks to children under the age of 12.
- Ban point of sale promotions and displays of high calorie, low nutrient foods and beverages in retail settings, beginning with over sweetened beverages.

The Board urged the government to implement the recommendations of the strategy in a timely fashion, beginning with sugar sweetened beverages, particularly energy drinks for children.

Rent Geared to Income Housing

A report was received on the 2014 centralized waiting list statistics on rent geared to income assistance. At the end of 2014, there were 5422 households requesting rent geared to income assistance, including 57 households requiring modified units for wheelchair accessibility. The majority of applicants on the list are families but the number of single/non senior applicants continues to grow due to the limited housing available for this cohort.

About 800 households on the waiting list will benefit from the Investment in Affordable Housing in Ontario which provides a temporary flat rate rent subsidy to offset costs for households paying more than 50% of their income on rent. This program runs until 2023/24.

Regional housing staff are working with other service managers to take advantage of recent legislative changes which allow some flexibility in how waiting lists are administered.

Finance

The Region received confirmation of its Triple A Credit Rating from Standard & Pools.

Planning & Economic Development Committee

Regional Council approved the engagement of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority to update the Carruther's Creek Watershed Plan on the Region's behalf at an estimated cost of \$1,089,500. over a four year period from 2015 to 2018, with funding not to exceed \$300,000. in 2015.