

**COMMUNITY SERVICES/
DUFFERIN OAKS COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE MINUTES**



Wednesday, September 26, 2012.

The Committee met at 6.00 pm in the Sutton Room, 55 Zina Street, Orangeville

Members Present: Councillor Ed Crewson (Chair)
Councillor Ken Bennington
Councillor Darren White
Warden Walter Kolodziechuk

Staff Present: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer
Valerie Quarrie, Administrator of Dufferin Oaks
Keith Palmer, Director of Community Services
Michelle Dunne, Deputy Clerk

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests – None

The Chair asked that the Question Period be moved to after the Delegation.

DELEGATION

1. COMMUNITY SERVICES/DUFFERIN OAKS – September 26, 2012 - ITEM #1
Delegation Re: Jean Hamlyn Daycare Centre

Ms. Andrea Papavasiliou addressed the Committee with respect to Jean Hamlyn Daycare Centre. She spoke about the quality of care, dedicated staff and the Raising the Bar Accreditation program. She noted concerns regarding the Jean Hamlyn Sustainability report dated August 29, 2012. A copy of Ms. Papavasiliou's submission is attached to the minutes as Schedule B.

She asked the Committee to consider changes to future services and fees to keep Jean Hamlyn open.

The Committee directed staff to look into the numbers of the Jean Hamlyn Sustainability report and report back to the next meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

No questions from the public in attendance.

DUFFERIN OAKS

2. COMMUNITY SERVICES/DUFFERIN OAKS – September 26, 2012 - ITEM #2
Permanent Coordinating

Copy of the minutes of the Permanent Coordinating meeting for September 17, 2012

Moved by Councillor Bennington, seconded by Councillor White

THAT the minutes of the Permanent Coordinating meeting for September 17, 2012 be received.

-Carried-

COMMUNITY SERVICES

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES/DUFFERIN OAKS – September 26, 2012 - ITEM #3
Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes for September 17, 2012

Copy of the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting for September 17, 2012.

Moved by Councillor Bennington, seconded by Councillor White

THAT the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting for Monday September 17, 2012 and the recommendations set out, be adopted.

-Carried-

*ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – September 17, 2012 – ITEM #3
Draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan*

THAT the Multi-Year 2012-2016 County of Dufferin Accessibility Plan, attached as Schedule A, be adopted.

4. COMMUNITY SERVICES/DUFFERIN OAKS – September 26, 2012 - ITEM #4
Emergency Unit Memorandum of Understanding with Peace Ranch

A report from the Director of Community Services dated September 26, 2012 to seek approval from the Committee for the County to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Peace Ranch to partner in the operation of a Transitional Emergency Safe Bed for those who are experiencing homelessness.

Moved by Councillor White, seconded by Warden Kolodziechuk

THAT the report of the Director, Community Services dated September 26, 2012 – Emergency Unit Memorandum of Understanding with Peace Ranch, as amended, be received;

AND THAT, council authorize the Director of Community Services to enter into an MOU with Peace Ranch for the delivery of an emergency unit.

-Carried-

**5. COMMUNITY SERVICES/DUFFERIN OAKS – September 26, 2012 - ITEM #5
Mental Health Training Event in Dufferin County**

A report from the Director of Community Services dated September 26, 2012 to update the Committee on an upcoming learning and development opportunity for community agencies that the County of Dufferin Community Services Department is Organizing

Moved by Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Bennington

THAT the report of the Director, Community Services dated September 26, 2012 with respect to a Mental Health Training Event in Dufferin County, be received.

-Carried-

**6. COMMUNITY SERVICES/DUFFERIN OAKS – September 26, 2012 - ITEM #6
Dufferin County Emergency Management Forum Summary Report**

A report from the Director of Community Services dated September 26, 2012 to provide the Committee with a summary of the recent Dufferin County Emergency Management Forum.

Moved by Councillor Bennington, seconded by Councillor White

THAT the report of the Director, Community Services dated September 26, 2012 with respect to Dufferin County Emergency Management Forum summary be received.

-Carried-

OTHER BUSINESS

Jean Hamlyn Daycare

Chair Crewson asked what the next steps were with Jean Hamlyn Daycare. The Director of Community Services informed the Committee that an Expression of Interest was going out on September 27, 2012, to see if there is any interest and help staff to

prepare a scope of the RFP. The Chair requested staff to provide an update at the October Committee meeting.

Former Shelburne Hospital

The Director of Community Services informed the Committee that he had met with the Architect and reviewed the preliminary drawings with the possibility of increasing the number of social housing units from 14 to 15. Another meeting is scheduled for next week.

Edelbrock Centre

The Director of Community Services gave an update on the Edelbrock Centre. The facility is ahead of schedule and half of the tenant leases have been signed .

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at 3:30 p.m.
 Mel Lloyd Centre, Shelburne

Respectfully submitted

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Councillor Ed Crewson, Chair
Community Services and Dufferin Oaks Committee

SCHEDULE A
COMMUNITY SERVICES/DUFFERIN OAKS COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE MINUTES – Submission from Andrea Papavasiliou

	<p>Talking Points For Jean Hamlyn Parent Delegation Community Services Meeting, September 26th, 2012 6pm</p>
Opening Remarks	<p>Good evening and thank the committee for: -moving the location and the time of the meeting -allowing us to present to their committee meeting</p>
Introduction	<p>-Introduce myself and who I am representing, 63 families who are concerned about the fate of their children's daycare. - Our presentation will focus on two points of interest: 1. The quality of care at Jean Hamlyn that is unique to the centre itself and 2. The concerns about the Jean Hamlyn Day Care Sustainability report discussed at the county council meeting on the 13th of September.</p>
Quality of Care At Jean Hamlyn	<p>Jean Hamlyn is not just another daycare centre. To most of the 90 children and 63 families who use it, it is a second home. Jean Hamlyn is a unique facility that recently received the silver level of quality through the "Raising the Bar Accreditation Program due to its highly qualified, experienced, and loving staff members. However, this high standard of care is best demonstrated through the personal stories from parents of children who attend Jean Hamlyn.</p> <p>"My son, Daniel, recently started attending this daycare and he wakes up each morning with a great big smile and an eagerness to attend "school" that I've never seen before. He will be starting JK next year and I know that because of the fantastic care he is receiving at Jean Hamlyn, he'll be well prepared for school. As a seasoned elementary teacher for the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, I have personally witnessed the huge positive impact that a top notch daycare such as Jean Hamlyn has on a child's early academic years. Not only is the fantastic staff at Jean Hamlyn caring for my son's physical needs, but they are instilling in him a true love of learning, fostering his independence and celebrating his accomplishments. If Jean Hamlyn were to close, it would be a truly sad day in our house. I hope and pray this won't ever become a reality." - Kristy Scanlon</p> <p>"Before moving to Orangeville, we had our daughter in several daycare centres in Toronto. These were excellent, well-run centres but, frankly, no match for Jean Hamlyn. This centre is staffed by intelligent, kind women who provide an enriched, secure and fun environment. Each day we walk in, every staff member turns to us, smiles and calls out to our daughter by name. Isabel, a shy, quiet child, has blossomed under the care of these wonderful women. Over the summer, we were at a fundraising picnic for the Acquired Brain Injury Association. Isabel spotted Brenda (a Jean Hamlyn staff member), she broke into a huge smile, ran at full speed towards Brenda and gave her a huge hug.</p>

It's impossible to put a price on what these women and this centre provide – fun, creativity, comfort, kindness, learning, security, self-esteem – the list goes on and on...”

- Lynda Cranston & David Le Gallais

“During our first few weeks of being at Jean Hamlyn, something specific was noted about Weston that two other centres in town had overlooked. “Weston seems to drink a lot of water... He always seems thirsty”. When Tracey (a staff member at Jean Hamlyn) initially spoke to me about this, I shrugged it off. This past summer had brutal heat, and really - I thought ‘Weston’s just thirsty.’ However, Tracey spoke to me about this a few times, and I started to worry. I did a little research and had Weston booked in to see the doctor right away. Young children notably drinking large amounts can be a sign of diabetes. It turns out Weston is fine. But knowledge is power, and Tracey sold us on our decision of moving Weston from another centre into Jean Hamlyn. She cared about our son, and wanted to educate us on something most parents don't even realize.”

- Kelly Grubb

“When Daeva was in SK, one local school put her on a bus and sent her on the entire route, bringing her back to the school confused as to why she didn't get off. It was Brenda (from Jean Hamlyn) that went to the school to pick her up and called my cell to tell me she was OK. I was in the city for a work meeting. Moreover, when I was pregnant with my son and approaching his due date, it was a few of the ladies from Jean Hamlyn that offered to bring Daeva to the hospital if I went into labour. I have gone to these women for education advice (they helped us make the decision to put our daughter in the French immersion program) and they helped us with summer programs to choose since our daughter was too old to attend Jean Hamlyn over the summer.”

- Stephanie and Alan Brooks

“Prior to Jean Hamlyn, we were involved in a home daycare situation and another day care facility, neither of which met our standards of excellence. The level of care my children have received at Jean Hamlyn has far surpassed any other caregiver we have experienced. The staff is friendly and welcoming, and greets me by name when I am in the building. Any issues or questions are answered and dealt with promptly. When I drop my children off for the day, they are excited and happy to leave us and join in with their friends and teachers. The growth they have gone through with the guidance and patience of their teachers is phenomenal. When I leave my children for the day I know they are safe, well fed and not only cared for but loved. There is a reason that Jean Hamlyn has a long wait list and people vying to get into the program. It's the teachers and programs and the reputation they have built over many years as the best in the county. Closing or selling Jean Hamlyn would be a great loss to the community. There is a need for quality daycare in Orangeville and Jean Hamlyn provides it.”

- Shan & Matt Robertson

	<p>Finally, it is important to hear directly from the children who attend Jean Hamlyn. Representing these children is Daniella Ortolan and she's 11 years old. She went to Jean Hamlyn from the age of 2 1/2 to 7.</p> <p><i>The Early Years Study 3: Making Decisions, Taking Action</i> is a Canadian report that documents the social, economic and scientific rationale for increased investment in early childhood education. The report states: "Early childhood programs offer multiple social and economic benefits. For children and families, they are very personal places. Parents long for environments where their children are nurtured with real affection, receive individualized attention and are appreciated for their uniqueness. They want their children to make friends, to have new experiences and to learn new skills. They want a relationship with their children's educator that is welcoming, respectful and reciprocal..." This is exactly the standard of care and environment that Jean Hamlyn provides to the residents of Dufferin County. Closing Jean Hamlyn would deprive parents of the care they want and need for their children. Turning it over to a third party provider – with an eye on profit margins - would diminish the excellence of care now provided at Jean Hamlyn. Neither one of these options would benefit families and the community at large.</p> <p>It is important to note, that after Ministry of Education inspections, Jean Hamlyn has a 100% compliance rate. Other local centres have infractions that scare me as a parent of two young children. For example, local infractions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -failure to develop and implement a criminal reference check policy. -failure to ensure that staff are registered member of the College of Early Childhood teachers. This is the governing body that protects the public and our children. -failure to ensure that at least one staff member with a group of children is an ECE. -failure to ensure that staff have the required health assessments and immunizations to work with children. <p>Quality daycare is needed in Dufferin County. Would any member of councilor feel comfortable sending a child of our county to one of these local daycare centres after listening to this list of infractions that are available to the public on the Ministry of Education website under licensed daycares?</p> <p>In the next phase our presentation, we wish to discuss the assumptions and claims made in the Jean Hamlyn report recently presented to council.</p>
<p>Criticisms of Report</p>	<p>Calculation of Vacancies:</p> <p>Our first concern is the calculation of vacancies in the county if Jean Hamlyn were to close.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There are discrepancies in the numbers of licensed daycare spots in the county report about Jean Hamlyn and the Ministry of Education website. Most importantly, in a report dated May 2, 2012, the Ministry states that Sandbox Tech is licensed for 94 spots. The country report states that Sandbox Tech is

	<p>licensed for 144 spots. This information is available on the Ministry website, under licensed daycares.</p> <p>-In total there is a 51 spot discrepancy between what the county says and what the province states about the number of licensed daycare spots. This would mean that there would barely be enough spaces to accommodate our children if Jean Hamlyn were to close. The county needs to double check their numbers. Furthermore, if Jean Hamlyn is sold to a third party, there is no guarantee that they would be licensed for the same amount of spots that Jean Hamlyn is currently licensed for.</p> <p>-Firstly, the vacancies are based on licensed capacity spaces as opposed to operating capacity spaces. This assumes that other daycares have the capital and resources to hire more staff members to take in children needing daycare if Jean Hamlyn were to close. There is no way to predict if these centres will be willing to do so. They are under no obligation to do so. Therefore, there is no way to know if there will be vacancies for our children if Jean Hamlyn closes. Where will our children go?</p> <p>- The report admits on page five that the vacancies may not meet the requirements of all families. This poses the obvious question: what is a parent to do if these vacancies do not meet their family's needs?</p> <p>- The report does not take into consideration the level of education and experience of the other daycare providers. Jean Hamlyn employs only fully trained Early Childhood Educators. In contrast, other centres, in an effort to cut costs, hire the minimum number of ECE workers that their license will allow and use students and assistants with less education and experience to fulfill supervision requirements. Is this a choice that a parent would want to make for their child?</p> <p>-The report does not explain why so many parents who need daycare for their children have remained on waiting lists for long periods of time. Many of these parents placed their children on multiple wait lists when their children were first born. My daughter spent 16 months on the wait list for Jean Hamlyn and my son has been waiting now for 11 months. This is all too common in our county.</p> <p>-It is distressing to add that parents of this delegation contacted each Orangeville Daycare listed on the report that had vacancies. We were told by each centre that our children would have to be placed on a wait list. Not one of the centres was able to tell us when our children would be able to attend their facility.</p>
	<p>Listing Home Based Licensed Care & Home Based Unlicensed Care As Options for Care for Our Children:</p> <p>-The report lists home-based licensed care and home-based unlicensed care as day care options in our county. Yet many parents feel strongly that these options are <u>not</u> suitable choices for their children. Parents deserve choice and the suggestions in this report do not provide it.</p> <p>- The vacancies discussed in home-based licensed care are not defined as full or part time spaces. So the vacancies may not meet the childcare requirements of families. Secondly, the report assumes that parents would want their children placed in private homes where the standard of care and education does not compare to Jean Hamlyn.</p> <p>-The report assumes that more spaces could be created in home-based</p>

	<p>licensed care. But it is not clear if people would be willing to endure the licensing process and what the timeline for that process would be. What's more, just because a home-based daycare provider is licensed, does not mean that it is a good fit for our children.</p> <p>-Home-based unlicensed care was not investigated in the report and, frankly, is not an option most parents would take. It can be a risky prospect in some cases and should not be considered by the council.</p>
	<p>Missing variable when discussing the variables of childcare spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The reports lists factors, like location, age of child, and part time vs. full time care, that are vital when choosing a childcare option. However, one important variable is missing: <u>Quality</u>. <p>As stated in the Early Years Study, "All children should have the opportunity to attend places...staffed by sensitive, qualified ECEs... Few do. Most children must settle for mediocrity and live with the consequences. Experience tells us it is not enough to add preschool spaces; we need to be concerned with how good they are. Enrolling children in overcrowded classrooms with inept educators can make their lives worse. But quantity often wins out over quality for policy makers because it is easier to boast about increasing spaces than improving classroom quality."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -We hope that the county wants to provide the best for its tiniest and most vulnerable residents. By closing Jean Hamlyn or selling it to a third party, would that be the case? -When I asked a county councilor why Jean Hamlyn is not profitable, he pointed to the ECE's wages. The report seems to support this claim when it states that it needs more wage subsidies. Please keep in mind that salaries of county ECE workers are equal to other male employees and are comparable to ECE workers at the local school board. This is reasonable considering that ECEs at Jean Hamlyn are not babysitters, but qualified child educators providing optimal care and education to our children. As stated in the Early Years report: "It is important for all educators to be reflective practitioners, sensitive to children and knowledgeable about how they develop. Skilled ECEs match their interactions and responses to what is required to best assist a child's learning. They provide children with scaffolding, the kind of assistance that helps children to reach further than would be possible unassisted." - The report assumes that parents at Jean Hamlyn would choose before and after care at Princess Elizabeth based on the idea that it would be "a... seamless day with fewer transitions". However, an informal survey of Jean Hamlyn parents conducted by this delegation found that 92% of respondents would choose care at Jean Hamlyn as opposed to care at Princess Elizabeth provided by an unnamed provider. The reason? Again, it's all about quality. Jean Hamlyn is a second home to our kids. Starting and ending their school day at Jean Hamlyn is a comfort to our children who love the staff and are familiar with their routine. As parents, we deserve the opportunity to make the best choice for our children. The opinions and needs of parents are nowhere in the county's report. Councilors must consult the users of the centre before making decisions based on mere speculation.

	<p>Fees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The report comments that the county is hesitant to raise fees because it might lose families who could not shoulder the increased financial burden. Has the county ever asked parents if they would pay an increased daily fee? Our informal survey found that 100% of respondents said they would increase their daily payment to Jean Hamlyn by \$3.00–10.00 if it would keep the centre open and would not be sold to a third party. - We could explore an increase in daily rates beyond the suggested dollar increase discussed in the report. Our informal poll results suggest that parents would be amenable to a larger increase. - Any fee increase would have to consider those families who receive a fee subsidy (currently 19 children, or 16 families in Dufferin). Why not adopt a revamped fee structure where subsidized families would continue to pay a prorated rate, while unqualified families would pay an increased rate? -It would be useful to know how much money the county would like Jean Hamlyn to recover in fees. Surely this figure would have a huge impact on a decision on closing Jean Hamlyn or selling to a third party.
	<p>Third Party Concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There is no doubt that privatizing care will diminish its quality. As mentioned in the report, the quality of daycare workers will be lower to justify reduced salaries and a higher profit. It is scary to contemplate other corners that would be cut for the sake of the bottom line. -What about the employment and well-being of the workers at Jean Hamlyn? A new operator would not be obligated to employ the current employees. This is a loss of jobs for Dufferin County residents. Does this make sense? - Severance payouts could be as high as \$325,000. Why not invest this money into the well-being of our youngest residents, rather than firing employees that provide an essential service to our county residents? - There is no guarantee that a third party would maintain reasonable daily rates or take on the current enrollment of children at Jean Hamlyn. What would parents do then? -The country report states that “During the transition period, staff at the Jean Hamlyn Day Care Centre will continue to provide professional and high quality care to children and families.” How can this be guaranteed when staff will be afraid for their futures and searching for employment elsewhere? Consider another claim made in the report, “The county will work with families on an individual basis in order to help them make informed decisions regarding child care concerns.” Is this a realistic promise when 63 families will need assistance placing their child or children into suitable care? -According to the report, the county will continue to invest into childcare if the daycare centre is closed or turned over to a third party. However, this level of support is not specified and there is nothing to hold the county to this promise in future years.
	<p>Making a decision too soon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The report assumes that Full Day Kindergarten is a reality based on the current political climate in Ontario. Political experts suggest that a spring election could be held if Premier McGuinty resigns. This may mean a new

	<p>government that would dismantle the funding for FDK. The conservative government has been very vocal about ending the program altogether.</p> <p>-The report notes that the Ministry of Education offers some capital funding to daycare centres to help with the impact of FDK. However, it also notes that the Ministry of Education is hesitate at this time to offer more funding because it does not know the impact of FDK. This begs the question: if the province has not been able to calculate the impact of FDK, how can the county make an informed decision about Jean Hamlyn now? Isn't it jumping the gun?</p> <p>-Furthermore, local school boards are not required to provide before and after school care. This has happened at several local schools. Before and after school care at Princess Elizabeth PS is not a given.</p> <p>-The report states that Jean Hamlyn could operate status quo until the first quarter of 2104. Would it not be prudent to delay a decision for a year until more information is known? As mentioned in the report, "... other child care programs in some areas are taking a wait and see approach..." Why is Dufferin county not doing the same? This decision affects the livelihood of many people, and the care of our children.</p>
<p>Closing remarks</p>	<p>We believe that providing quality services to residents must be paramount to Dufferin County Council – that alone should justify the continuance of Jean Hamlyn. Yet the centre's fate has become a choice about how we should spend the county's tax dollars. Why is the future of Jean Hamlyn in question, when the centre's total budget is only 1% of the county's global budget? Why not focus on other, more costly services with a view to cost cutting? For example, Operating the Dufferin Oaks Home costs the county 2.8 million dollars after subsidy, or howabout the cost of the admin/HR/finance/IT/council of our fine county- 1.9 million after subsidies, or the county museum and forest, 900,000. Surely our children are at least as important as roads and sewers and other services I just mentioned.</p> <p>If decreased enrollment at Jean Hamlyn becomes a reality (which we have already argued is not a done deal), the answer is in the report itself – expanding current toddler spaces and creating infant spaces. True – this service model is more expensive. When a child is younger, its basic needs and the care to meet them are greater. It would be reasonable for families of infants and toddlers to pay more for a higher level of care. We believe the county must examine this option for Jean Hamlyn more closely before any decision is taken. At this point in time, only one facility in town offers care for infants, forcing them into unlicensed care.</p> <p>Next, it is vital to conduct a community survey to assess the daycare needs of our county – now and in the future. This report admits "It is very difficult to project the child care service needs two years in advance." But the county has done just that and, to make matters worse, has done so without consulting parents. Council is also urged to double check the figures in its report. There is a 51 spot discrepancy between the province and the country about the number of licensed daycare spots in Orangeville. This translates into children having no one to care for them.</p>

Finally, we request that the committee contact us before making a decision regarding the RFPs. We would appreciate the opportunity to present our thoughts and concerns about the proposals.

We wish to thank this county council committee and its members for allowing us to present tonight. We want to leave you with one last thought. One parent in our delegation attended Jean Hamlyn 35 years ago when she was a little girl and now sends her son there. Of her experience she states, "These memories I hold dear to my heart. A love of learning was instilled early with the staff members' help. The earliest memories of my childhood involve my time at Jean Hamlyn. I have always loved school and am now a Kindergarten teacher – in part due to the love I received in my first organized daycare setting. Sending my own child here has brought comfort to both of us as I can say to my son, 'This is mommy's old school.'"

Every child deserves this experience at daycare. The county of Dufferin should be proud of Jean Hamlyn and the care it provides. Please do not sell it or close its doors. STATUS QUO IS THE WAY TO GO – with changes to future services and fees as needed. Thank you.