

Summer



Social Planning Council
of Cambridge and North Dumfries

20
YEARS

www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org

NEWSLETTER

5th Annual Poverty Symposium Explores the Experiences of Older Adults

The Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries (SPC-CND) held its 5th Poverty Symposium on May 14th 2010 at Cambridge City Hall. This annual event brought a new opportunity to explore timely and pressing issues related to the health and well-being of our community. This year, the focus of the Symposium was "Creating Age-friendly Communities". The need to explore this issue came out of consultations with community members and agencies that identified poverty among older adults as an area of concern.

Approximately 65 people from social services agencies, government, the private sector, and interested community members as well as 11 presenters gathered to learn, discuss and to begin to formulate collective community responses. The keynote speaker for the event was Judith Wahl, Executive Director of advocacy Centre for the Elderly (ACE) a community legal clinic serving seniors in Toronto. Through the keynote address, as well further discussion in the workshops, the Symposium explored issues related to the experiences of seniors, including access to housing, elder abuse, availability of community supports, the issue of homelessness and others.

To follow up on the issues raised at the Symposium, the Social Planning Council, with input from community partners undertook a survey of seniors and service providers, which will be used for a paper on the gaps in knowledge and availability of services for older adults in Cambridge and North Dumfries. The survey was distributed to attendees and they were encouraged to take copies for their colleagues and clients. The findings will be reported back to the community in coming months. Event proceedings can be found on the Social Planning Council website at:

www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org

Mission

The Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries actively and impartially strives to improve the quality of life for all residents of Cambridge and North Dumfries through community-based research, planning and action.

SAVE THE DATE!

**MUNICIPAL ALL-
CANDIDATES
MEETING**

**OCT 14TH
7PM**

**LOCATION: ISLAMIC
CENTRE OF
CAMBRIDGE**

**1550 DUNBAR ROAD,
CAMBRIDGE**



Inside this issue:

SPC News and Projects	1
Of Interest... Local	3
Of Interest... Provincial & National	4
SPC Updates & Events	5

CIOC Database Update

If your organization is listed on the “Information Cambridge and North Dumfries” online database, over the coming weeks you will be receiving notice that we are undertaking an update of the contact information of all 524 community listings. This helps us to make sure our referrals are accurate and your organization’s contact and service information is up-to-date.

For more information, contact Amanda at amanda@socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org

“Building Resilient Communities”

On April 26th 2010, an exciting event was held at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture in Cambridge to show how buildings can be “re-born” and neighbourhoods revitalized through affordable and mixed use housing in both downtown areas and suburban neighbourhoods.

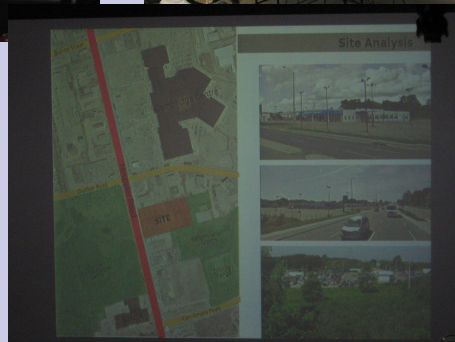
In partnership, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Region of Waterloo, the City of Cambridge, the University of Waterloo School of Architecture and the Cambridge Poverty Reduction Roundtable Affordable Housing Subcommittee hosted this event that shared the creative work of student teams with the community. The conceptual exercises demonstrated how affordable housing can be a key strategy to urban and community revitalization. Student teams examined four Cambridge sites and proposed designs that showcased creative and innovative designs.

A display featuring these designs will be featured at City Hall in the coming weeks and there are plans to bring the displays to libraries in the neighbourhoods of the sites that were featured. Look for these coming to a venue near you. The student presentations are available on the University of Waterloo School of Architecture at:

<http://www.architecture.uwaterloo.ca/news+events/events/events.html>



Cambridge Mayor Doug Craig brings greetings



Student team presentations



Forum Attendees

Local News

ISARC 2010 Social Audit

*"I'm not used to living this way"
"You have no idea what it is like to have nothing"*

"When the money is less and less it doesn't matter how well you budget"

"Thank God for food banks and shelters"

(Participants in the Cambridge Hearings)

The Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) is a provincial network of faith groups working together for greater social justice. ISARC was born out of the hope that together a coalition of faith groups could contribute to new public policies based on greater justice and dignity for Ontarians marginalized by poverty.

In the early months of this year hearings took place in dozens of communities across the province as part of ISARC's 2010 Social Audit. The Social Audit seeks to communicate the effects of Ontario government policies and actions towards people living in poverty. On February 25th hearings took place throughout Waterloo Region. Dozens of people came and shared their stories and suggestions for change. The SPCCND had the privilege of participating in hearings in Cambridge and North Dumfries. We were deeply moved by the stories we heard, and struck with how the dual themes of challenge and hope went hand in hand.

The stories gathered will be used to highlight issues of poverty, and the ideas for change will be used to advocate for policy change. *Persistent Poverty: Dispatches from the Margins* will be published this fall as a final report on the findings of the 2010 Social Audit.

More information about the 2010 Social Audit is available on the ISARC website www.isarc.ca.

Emergency and Crisis Services Card

Homeless and at-risk people in Cambridge will have community contacts and emergency numbers readily at hand with a new Emergency and Crisis Services Card. The card, providing phone numbers for food assistance and emergency, housing, and health services was launched this spring. Emergency cards can be obtained from members of the Cambridge Action on Homelessness Group (CAHG) or by calling 519-623-1713.

Cambridge Explores Intensification

With the aid of some high tech gadgetry, municipal officials are getting a future look at the city's skyline as it incorporates Ontario's Places to Grow Strategy into the official plan.

Cambridge is in the midst of updating its plan, which is a tool used by planners to shape

the community in years to come. In revising the plan, city staff have to incorporate not only the goals and objectives of the municipality, but reflect those of Waterloo Region and the province.

Rewriting the plan started more than a year ago. One study was completed to determine how Cambridge can meet its guidelines, which seeks to slow the continuation of urban sprawl by intensifying development within urban centres. Part of the idea is to make better use of each city's expensive network of water and sewer lines by increasing the amount of housing along existing streets.



(Source: Cambridge Times, June 16)

Community Honours Volunteer

Congratulations to Ivan Bell who received the Keith Schwartz award at the Langs Farm Village Association AGM on Friday. The Keith Schwartz Memorial Award is given for unselfish acts of kindness for the betterment of others and/or the community.

Thanks to Ivan for all of the good work he has done and continues to do for Cambridge and North Dumfries.

Provincial & National News

Affordable Housing Strategy Bill

Bill C-304, "An Act to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians," will soon be before the House of Commons. The support of MPs from all parties is required for the passage of this groundbreaking piece of legislation.

If passed into law, Bill C-304 would "require the Minister responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to consult with the provincial and territorial ministers of the Crown responsible for municipal affairs and housing and with representatives of municipalities, Aboriginal communities, non-profit and private sector housing providers and civil society organizations in order to establish a national housing strategy."

This strategy would guarantee the right to safe, secure, adequate, affordable and accessible housing for all Canadians. It would serve as landmark legislation by providing explicit recognition of the human right to housing, as encoded in international human rights law and ensure a pan-Canadian housing strategy rooted in this human rights framework.

Until the early 1990s, the federal government recognized housing as part of its mandate. Now, Canada is the only major industrialized country without a national housing strategy. A pan-Canadian housing strat-

egy, developed with key stakeholders, is critical to strategic, efficient and more effective allocation of resources.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing has identified the situation in Canada as "a national housing and homelessness crisis." This crisis calls out for a visionary, non-partisan response.

(Source: Dignity for All Campaign, www.dignityforall.ca)

SARAC Report Released

The Social Assistance Review Advisory Council Report released in May at Queen's Park promotes a bold new vision for income security in the long run but is weak on what it asks the Ontario Government to do to help people on social assistance meet their basic daily living necessities now. The Review panel recommends a consultation and system overhaul process that will take 12 to 18 months.

The Social Planning Network of Ontario (SPNO) has been working with community partners across the province in the last year on a campaign called Put Food in the Budget. The campaign calls for the immediate introduction of a \$100 a month Healthy Food Supplement for people on social assistance as a first step toward setting rates at a level that allows them to live with health and dignity. SPNO and its community partners urged the

SARAC panel to make this recommendation to the Minister of Community and Social Services along with proposals for long-term income security reform. They are disappointed in the panel's failure to do so.

(Source: Social Planning Network of Ontario)

More Canadians facing "Time Crunch"

A new report released by the Canadian Index of Well Being shows that Canadians, especially women,



are caught in a time crunch and the problem has been getting worse over the past 15 years.

"People are struggling to meet the competing demands of a workplace that can reach out to them 24/7, caring for children and aging parents, and their own need to refresh body and mind. As individuals and as a society we are paying a steep price for this time crunch. We're less healthy, both physically and mentally and we have less time for leisure and relaxation with family" said The Honourable Roy J. Romanow, Chair of the CIW Advisory Board.

(Source: Canadian Index of Wellbeing)

A new face at SPCCND

Pat Ranney will be joining the SPC staff in the office as the Community Innovation Centre Project Manager. She will be working with the Community Innovation Centre Collaborative Group to further the development of this initiative. Pat is a business professional with over 20 years experience in the disciplines of project management, product management including the launch of new products and services, strategic planning and marketing. She has worked for large Canadian and multi-national corporations such as CIBC in addition to small start-up and consulting enterprises. Pat is very pleased to be part of the CIC initiative and looks forward to working in the Cambridge community.

SPC AGM

The Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries held its 21st Annual General Meeting on June 16th. The board of directors, staff, members and other community partners gathered to review the past year's financial statements and hear about the SPC's ongoing research, planning and action in the Cambridge and North Dumfries community.

Homelessness Awareness Week

Cambridge Action on Homelessness Group (CAHG) member organizations once again participated in Homelessness Awareness Week (April 25th - May 1st 2010). As in past years, guided tours of local agencies were offered. This year's tours included the Bridges shelter, the Cambridge Self Help Food Bank, CMHA Centre for Mental Health, and Argus Residence. These tours provided a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of homelessness in our community and also to showcase local services.

SPC in the News...

The work of the SPC was featured in several newspaper articles and TV programs over the past several months including:

"Bringing Elderly into the Mix" – *Cambridge Times*, May 6th

"Poverty among Seniors More Prevalent than You'd Think" – *The Record*, May 15th

"Elderly Rights Left Behind" – *Cambridge Times*, May 17th

"Audit shines light on the struggles of living in poverty" – *The Record*, June 5th

"Building Resilient Communities" & "Cultural Diversity" stories – Rogers Newsmakers

	<u>October 14th</u>	<u>TBA</u>	<u>October 2010</u>
Upcoming Events:	Cambridge All-Candidates Meeting	North Dumfries All-Candidates Meeting	"Poverty Awareness Month"

Board of Directors

Kathleen Flint— President
 Anne Tinker— Vice President
 Monica Morrison—Treasurer
 Keith Parkinson— Secretary
 Majed Darr— Member
 Margaret Green— Member
 Len Stuiver— Member
 Gord Zielstra— Member

Staff

Linda Terry—Executive Director
 Dina Etmanskie—Social Planner
 Laura VanderGriendt—Social Planner
 Amanda Richards— Summer Intern

Contact

Phone: (519) 623-1713
 Fax: (519) 267-4016
 Email:
admin@socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org