

# One Kids Place seeks funding help from local councils

by Carlye Malchuk Dash

HUNTSVILLE – Children’s treatment centre One Kids Place is looking for financial help in reaching its fundraising goal for a new children’s treatment centre in North Bay, which they say will help serve the children in Muskoka and Parry Sound districts as well.

On Monday a delegation from the centre, which has treatment facilities in Huntsville, Parry Sound and North Bay, attended Huntsville town council on their first stop in the region, to explain the services they offer and formally request financial assistance with their capital campaign.

In Huntsville alone, the centre is requesting

nearly half a million dollars in aid from the municipality.

The non-profit, charitable organization is looking for financial assistance to build a regional treatment facility in North Bay, where services are currently being offered in a temporary location.

The centre serves 136 Huntsville children with different needs since it opened its local treatment centre nearly two years ago, said Jason Corbett, manager of development and community relations for One Kids Place. That’s only about a third of the children the centre sees, since Huntsville’s site services all of Muskoka.

Last year, One Kids Place provided rehab services to over 1,600 kids in Muskoka, Nipissing and Parry Sound districts combined, he said.

The centre provides occupational therapy, speech therapy, physiotherapy, among other services to children with a wide range of issues, such as autism, cerebral palsy, developmental or learning disabilities, brain injury and Down syndrome to name a few, said Corbett.

“We are one of the last three regions in the province to receive a children’s treatment centre,” he added. Before the centre’s establishment in 2005, he said, families had to travel to Toronto or Ottawa for services now offered in the community.

“We have pediatricians and doctors alike saying we are in the best position we have been probably in our history when it comes to health care (in this region),” said Corbett.

The total cost of the treatment centre is about \$15.5 million. Nine million dollars was given to the centre by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, which leaves \$6.5 million to be raised by the community, said Corbett. Of that, \$4.3 million has been raised to date.

The centre requested \$475,280 from the municipality, which works out to \$26 per capita. Corbett explains the number was gen-

erated based on what other municipalities in the Nipissing and Parry Sound areas have been contributing.

Although there was no debate on whether or not to contribute the funds, many councillors had questions for the delegation, including where else they are looking for funding, other than municipalities.

“We’re trying all approaches, so service clubs, businesses, community leaders, municipalities and government agencies,” said Corbett. The group would be making presentations to the other regional municipalities in the future, he added.

Councillor Fran Coleman suggested the district would be a good place to attend, since the kind of services offered by One Kids Place are more of a district purview than the lower-tier municipalities.

When asked by councillor Brian Thompson if the Huntsville centre would close once the new North Bay facility opens, Corbett replied that the centre will continue to decentralize its services to better serve the families in the wide geographic region.

The North Bay centre will “do very much the same function that happens here with clinics and also is the home base for therapists who go out in the community, and it is the hub that will support Huntsville and Parry Sound,” said Corbett.

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**FAN-TASTIC.** Shield Sweeties dance team members Veronica Burkholder and Taylor Tomporowski cheer on the South Muskoka Shield after the team swept the Brock Bucks in three straight games over the weekend. Avid Shield fan Susan Cook brought her broom to symbolize the clean sweep. (Photo by Allyson Snelling)



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