

State of the Center – January 2008

This is the time of year that organizations review their standing and look ahead into the future. The beginning of 2008 finds the state of CVCC uncertain.

For the past 10 years a small group of volunteers have tried to grow a Community Center for the residents of Conestoga Valley. These volunteers have devoted many hours of their time to grow a non-profit organization from scratch. After several years of fundraising and help from the late Mr. Earl Hess, CVCC was able to hang a shingle on the door of the former Lancaster Labs Life Center. Although we had a home, it was not visible and had restricted growth potential, especially to build an indoor pool (the dream of the founding members). After several years of searching for options, the Board, with financing from Waypoint Bank, purchased the long abandoned Meadowbrook Farmers Market to relocate the Center to a highly visible and expandable location. CVCC's purchase of this abandoned property helped fuel the economic changes to western Leola.

Although CVCC is in a much more visible location, the move stretched resources and required much attention to development matters. Membership did grow, however, finding additional community volunteers to serve on the board and to help with fundraising, marketing and programming is a constant challenge. The sale of Waypoint Bank to Sovereign Bank also robbed us of a community-minded fiscal partner. Additionally, the Center's Board anticipated action from the municipalities after they signed the Conestoga Valley Comprehensive Plan in 2004. This plan gives high priority to the study and establishment of a regional recreation commission. All of our neighboring Community Centers operate with the help and support of their municipalities and school districts. CVCC does not have that luxury, and operates solely on membership fees, program fees and donations for income. Although numerous appeals were made to local business, industry, citizens with significant financial resources and other lending institutions, we have not received any sustained financial support for our mission.

For the past 18 months, the board cut expenses to the bone, yet tried to expand programming to increase the participation of residents and increase revenues. We are blessed with a dedicated staff who have gone above and beyond their job descriptions in the interest of the center, and they have our sincere gratitude.

We are working on several options to stay viable. We intend to consolidate operations to one floor and offer the excess space for lease or sale, along with additional undeveloped property we own. When ready for the move we will need volunteers to help make it happen. We especially can use the resources and knowledge of those with construction skills, but any and all help is necessary and appreciated. We also will continue to accept monthly memberships and encourage you to bring family and friends to work out with you. We will accept your tax deductible donations. We ask for your input and ideas. If CVCC is to survive, the engagement of the community and members is crucial moving forward. Your actions may determine the future of CVCC.

Sincerely,

CVCC Board of Directors