

Community groups to receive emergency funding from Town

The Gibson Centre, Good Shepherd Food Bank, and Alliston Out of the Cold (AOTC) were recently granted emergency funding from the Town of New Tecumseth so they can continue to operate.

The Gibson Centre is receiving \$35,000 to support its ongoing operational costs and to offset lost revenue due to the pandemic.

"I'm sure everyone agrees that the Gibson Centre offers a fantastic service for our area, we're lucky to have an arts centre that is housed in such a beautiful building and that does such a great job of offering programs to the community at such a good cost, as well, for people to participate," noted Ward 7 Councillor Shira Harrison McIntyre.

Meanwhile, AOTC received \$47,000 to hire an overnight worker in lieu of volunteers as it struggles to locate the manpower needed to operate the shelter through the night.

Many of its usual volunteers live with someone who is more vulnerable to COVID-19 or have pre-existing conditions themselves.

The opening date for AOTC has already been delayed from the start of November as it finalizes the logistics for staffing this season.

The Good Shepherd Food Bank is expanding to a much larger location to offset its demand locally. The food bank has received a subsidy from the Town to cover its rent for 17 years and is now requesting a \$1,400 increase to \$2,400 per month, as it pays more rent at its new location. The total allotment will be \$28,800 a year.

The Town of New Tecumseth is forecasting a surplus for its 2020 budget due to reductions in salaries incurred when COVID-19 first struck the community and staff were laid off.

The annual surplus is where the funding to support the Gibson Centre, Good Shepherd Food Bank, and AOTC is derived.

By Sam Odrowski Local Journalism Initiative Reporter