

Staff Report

Report From: Bonnie Hastings RECE, Manager of Childcare Services

Meeting Date: February 26, 2024

Subject: Monthly Report for February 2024

Attachment(s): None

Recommendation:

That Goderich Town Council receive this report for information.

Report Summary:

The purpose of this memo is to provide the Council with an update on the general operation of the Childcare Centre which may also include any legislative/regulatory updates from the Ministry of Education and/or Ministry of Health.

Background/Analysis:

Staffing continues to be challenging across the board. Recent postings for casual part-time had several applicants, and the cooks' position was posted with a closing date of Friday, February 23, 2024. 1 part time and 1 full time cooks positions have been offered with start dates of April 8, 2024, pending all necessary information is submitted.

Approval from the Ministry of Education has been approved for the infant playground expansion. Funding for this project was approved through Accessibility funding and is slated to be completed this summer.

The Childcare Centre continues to operate at 100% capacity. I am pleased to provide the following current waitlist chart. This information is constantly evolving as parents find alternate care, and children's ages change.

We continue to have parents join the online waitlist system daily and call the Centre regarding availability. Currently, the Centre is in gridlock regarding children unable to move up to the next age group due to limited spaces.

Program	Operating Capacity	Current Enrolment	January Operating Capacity	Current Waitlist for 2024	2025	2026
Infants	10	12	10	62	36	4
Toddler #1	15	19	15	38	5	1
Toddler #2	15	16	15	0		
Preschool #1	16	21	16	23	3	4
Preschool #2	16	21	16	0		
Preschool #3	16	20	16	0		
Preschool #4	15	15	15	0		
Total	103	124	103	125	44	9
Current enrolment includes part-time/flex care for attending children. Total number of children on waitlist 178						

Linkages:

- Corporate Strategic Plan Priority #1: Safe and Reliable Infrastructure
- Corporate Strategic Plan Priority #2: Welcoming and Caring Community
- Corporate Strategic Plan Priority #3: Strong Local Economy

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

No financial impact is associated with this report.

Reviewed By: Bonnie Hastings, RECE, Manager of Childcare Services

Approved By: Janice Hallahan, Chief Administrative Officer
Andrea Fisher, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk