

## **County pledges to find cash for John McGivney Centre after shortfall**

Friday, November 13, 2009

*Funding request 'stacks up favourably' against other infrastructure projects: Adams*

County councillors said last week that they'd find a way to provide funding for the new John McGivney Children's Centre, but there's no word yet on how much and where it will come from.

Officials from the JMC, a rehabilitation school for local kids with disabilities, said they are \$3.5 million short of the \$16.8 million needed to finance their new facility on Matchette Rd. in Windsor. They hope to get up to \$2 million of that from Essex County taxpayers.

County councillors had strong words to support, but wouldn't put a dollar figure on how much funding would be forthcoming. The matter was deferred to the 2010 budget.

The JMCC has been operating from a temporary location in Tecumseh since construction on the new facility began in August 2008.

Fundraising chairman George King, whose son attended the John McGivney centre, said the poor economic situation in southern Ontario has hampered efforts to make up the funding shortfall.

"We went through about an eight month period when it was impossible to get any money out of anybody," he told County councillors last week.

"Eventually, we just stopped asking."

Construction on the new centre is expected to be completed by March. King said a cash infusion is needed so the JMCC won't have to dip into its operating budget to cover construction costs.

They have not yet approached the City of Windsor with funding request, but King said they planned to do so soon.

### **Worthwhile project**

Councillors were quick to assure the JMCC delegation that cash would be found for them. "It makes no difference what community they live in, these are our children," Amherstburg mayor Wayne Hurst said. "We have to find a way we can assist with this very worthwhile project."

Leamington Mayor John Adams said the funding request stacks up favourably against other recent infrastructure projects, where municipalities were asked to pay a third of the costs, with the rest shouldered by the upper levels of government. "[JMCC] isn't even asking for a third," he said.

The County budget is set to be discussed in February.