

Georgian Bay Treatment Centre for Youth

Early in 2011, The Georgian Bay Treatment Centre for Youth (GBTC) was started by a community steering committee consisting of two experienced therapeutic counsellors and a special needs educator. In early 2012, GBTC was incorporated and subsequently granted charitable status, as a “not-for-profit” organization.

Starting up a new treatment facility for youth facing the challenges of recovering from various addictions while also dealing with the root causes of their addictions is not an easy, quick or inexpensive process. Concerns in the community have been raised about establishing this facility in its proposed location. Hopefully, the following will help to clarify some of these concerns.

To finance its initial activities, GBTC successfully applied for a Trillium grant. These funds enabled the Board to commence its start-up process. An in-depth needs study was conducted by a consulting firm, to document the need and the gap in services available for young people suffering from addictions and mental health issues. The clinical plan study was carried out by a recognized expert in the field, who is currently operating a treatment centre. A combination of these studies and the Board’s ideas became the foundation for a detailed a business model for the future centre.

Now, what are these ideas going to cost and how many people are required for implementation? Detailed project estimates, operational budgets and staffing models were created based on the clinical plan, the gap analysis and the business model as well as incorporating information from other existing youth addiction treatment centres.

As a first step, GBTC approached the Ministry of Health and Long Term care for capital financing and was advised that funding was not available in light of current fiscal restraints. Despite this initial setback, the Board decided to proceed with this project as a community financed project. The Ministry did advise, however, that operational funding was available, and that GBTC should reapply after two or three years of operation.

At this point, the Board has:

1. Confirmed the need for a treatment facility for youth in Grey/Bruce;
2. Established a clinical plan and approach for treatment;
3. Developed a business model and budgets defining the financial requirements;
4. Developed staffing models defining the number of personnel, their required areas of expertise and experience; and finally,
5. Established that operating as a not-for-profit will require “fundraising and donations” from the community as well as “fee for services”.

Now, what’s next? Following a lengthy search for a possible location for the centre, we settled on the site near Paisley. Prior to signing an agreement in November 2013, to lease and ultimately purchase the property, the Board carried out the normal due diligence

process on the property which included a functional assessment, an extensive building condition report, review of zoning, legal, insurability issues and financial feasibility. As part of this purchase/lease agreement, the vendor requested that GBTC not disclose the completion of the agreement until early 2014.

Over the last six months, in addition to completing all the activities required to acquire the property, we have been fully involved with developing our fundraising plan and are carrying out a workable project development plan, which includes working with our community partners such as, Grey Bruce Social Services, HOPE Addictions and Mental Health Network, CHOICES, regional schools, both MP Larry Miller and MPP Bill Walker. They are being made aware of our plans and have expressed support.

We continue to meet with people and organizations that are interested in creating a youth treatment centre and have a planned an “Open House” with several of GBTC’s neighbours on April 28th. Further, the Brockton Council has kindly offered to arrange a “meet and greet” with other neighbours to explain our plans, answer questions and listen to any concerns that they may have about The Centre. If you would like to have someone speak to your group about the Georgian Bay Treatment Centre, please contact us by phone or e-mail.

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