



Summer Day Camp

For more than 40 years Town House has offered summer programming for children.

Rationale:

Provides **structured play** and **learning experiences** that children may not otherwise experience at home or in school.

Summer Day Camp is designed to provide **career development for youth** who act as camp leaders.



Impacts:

“He looked forward to going every day; even if it was Saturday or Sunday he would ask if he had camp that day.” (Parent feedback 2014)

“I’m glad she had the opportunity to interact with kids her own age. There’s not many children in our neighbourhood, so it was a great and cheap way to get out and have some fun.”(Parent feedback 2014)

- Parents have rated summer camp as “excellent” in three main areas – the content/theme weeks; educational programming; and in their child’s growth and development from attending camp.
- Hundreds of children have benefitted from having a structured environment to interact with peers from various backgrounds.
- *Summer Day Camp* has provided career enhancement for several hundred students, many of whom have gone on to careers working with children and youth.

Processes:

- Offered in July and August.
- Nominal fee with **subsidized spaces available** when required.
- Camp is typically offered twice daily to accommodate different ages and/or a greater number of children.
- *Passchendaele House* serves as the Summer Day camp site.
- **Youth staff are hired** through government programs and partnerships.
- The youth staff have an opportunity to learn to oversee planning and scheduling and deliver a program that is **age appropriate** and enjoyable for the children.
- There are **theme weeks** such as nature, creative arts, science, and sports.
- Children complete projects and crafts; make friends; enjoy a fun learning environment with healthy snacks; engage in outdoor play; exploration; and games.

Strategic Innovations:

Citizens Service League Board of Directors has **approved a strategic plan** to guide their work over the next number of years.

Actions from the strategic plan that fall under the *Summer Day Camp* Program would be:

- ▶ **Maintain partnerships** to ensure summer student/youth staffing component.
- ▶ Effectively **advertise** summer camp spaces and registration dates.
- ▶ Facilitate and evaluate learning opportunities and career enhancement elements for summer student staff.
- ▶ Develop partnerships with different sectors of the community to help make Summer Camp a success.

