

Golden Age Club members donate \$5,000 to the complex



RTT PHOTO BY KAREN FALLON

Front row: (L to R) Theresa Bellefleur, Eve McCaffrey, mayor Wayne Hurst, Stella Bondy, Fern Elliott. Back row: Don McCaffrey, Mary Hulett and June Manemy. Members of the Fort Malden Golden Age Centre stand with Mayor Wayne Hurst while making a presentation of \$5,000 towards the United Communities Credit Union Complex.

By Karen Fallon

Fern Elliott, president of the Fort Malden Golden Age Center, presented council with a donation of \$5,000 towards the United Communities Credit Union Complex at the meeting held on Monday night.

Elliott was accompanied by Debbi Croucher, fundraising coordinator for the town, as well as Fort Malden Golden Age Center members: Theresa Bellefleur, Eve and Don McCaffrey, Stella Bondy, May Hulett and June McManemy.

Croucher says the center offers an array of activities which includes various card games, line dancing, trips and lunches. As well as being a place where lasting friendships are formed.

Amherstburg's senior center is being relocated to the new complex once work is completed.

Elliott says that she is anxious to make the move.

"I heard some good news tonight," Elliott, noted. "I heard that the cupboards are in...that's good. Hopefully we can be in there for the end of the month, so we can hold our elections there."

Membership at the center currently stands at 200, says Elliott, while noting that the annual membership fee is only \$5.

Councillor Bart DiPasquale says the new location will offer a larger facility that will be able to accommodate a higher number of members.

"You have a great beginning here to draw in a lot more seniors in town; there will be a lot more room," said DiPasquale.

"I am sure it is a bitter sweet kind of thing," said councillor Robert

Pillon of the move. "You have been there a long time, but it is good to hear that your community is willing to embrace the complex out there."

Councillor Carolyn Davies also thanked club members for their donation while noting that the organization is an intricate part of the community.

"I know you are a dynamic group and I do know there are a lot of very lonely seniors out there, who really need to connect...and I know that you will welcome them," she said.

Festivals receive provincial funding

River Lights & SOE secure grants

By Karen Fallon

Grant funding through Celebrate Ontario has been secured by both the River Lights Winter Festival and the Shores of Erie Wine Festival, it was noted recently by festival organizers at the March 5, council meeting.

Described as "very dedicated" and "professional" non-profit organizations by Anne Rota the town's manager of tourism and culture, the groups are deemed important to the prosperity and quality of life in Amherstburg.

"When you look at both of these festivals you see all of the components that make Amherstburg great. You see leadership; you see community spirit; volunteerism, all of which I believe is the spirit of this community," said councillor John Sutton.

The Ontario government, says Rota, recognizes the importance of festivals and events to Ontario's prosperity culture and quality and of life.

"They invigorate the local economy, they create jobs, they enhance tourism and they increase visitor spending in communities across Ontario," said Rota, who pointed out that \$20 million is being invested in communities across

Ontario in 2011 through this initiative.

Speaking on behalf of the River Lights Winter Festival, committee member Janet Willoughby announced that the group will receive \$32,900 in funding from the province.

"The money will go directly to enhance programming for our 2011 season," said Willoughby, who added that the organization has also received one of the top 100 festivals designations for 2011. This is the second

time it has achieved this title.

The winter festival brings together artistic light presentations for 40 days during the winter season. This in turn, says Willoughby helps to drive economic development in the downtown core.

"An estimated 20,000 people visited our lighted parks during the winter festival and most of this was because of the river lights,"

See GRANTS on Page 10

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