

Bonnie Brae Community Meeting

December 5, 2011 – 7 pm

Tavistock Memorial Hall

The Township hosted a Community Meeting to gather public comment and input on the proposed transfer of the Bonnie Brae Long-Term Care Beds from Tavistock to London.

The meeting was facilitated by Mayor Don McKay.

Mayor McKay welcomed everyone in attendance and provided some background on why the Township was hosting the Community Meeting and what it was hoping to get out of it.

Background on a previous Community Meeting on the Tavistock 5 Corners Intersection was provided by Township CAO Jeff Carswell. That meeting contributed to the County agreeing to move forward with changes to the intersection and traffic signal cycles.

Representatives from the Southwest LHIN were invited to attend and provide background on the Long-Term Care services in the area, but were unable to attend. Mayor McKay relayed information provided by email by the Southwest LHIN.

Andrew Raymer, representing the Tavistock Chamber of Commerce, addressed the group and explained the Chambers concern with this potential move. He also outlined some of the activities it is undertaking in partnership with the Township, such as the resident, employee and business surveys being conducted.

Karen Nelson-Hamilton, the Rural Oxford Economic Development Business Expansion and Retention Project Coordinator provided background on the Rural Oxford BR+E Project. She also explained some of the additional work being completed specifically on Tavistock and the potential movement of the Bonnie Brae beds. An important element of this work is the resident, employee and business surveys. This information will be useful to help quantify the potential impact if the Bonnie Brae were to relocate and provide economic information to support maintaining Long-Term Care beds in Tavistock, now and in the future.

The next phase of the Community Consultation involved breaking into smaller groups of 10-15 people to discuss 3 main questions. Each group had a discussion facilitator to record the main points that were raised during the group

discussion. Group facilitators were from Township Council, staff, Tavistock Chamber of Commerce Representatives and BR+E Project Staff. Following the Group Discussion the facilitators will present the main points to the entire group.

Following are the 3 main questions for the focus groups to consider:

1. What are the **Social Impacts** of the proposed relocation of the Bonnie Brae from Tavistock to London.
2. What are the **Health Care Impacts** of the of the proposed relocation of the Bonnie Brae from Tavistock to London.
3. What are the **Economic Impacts** of the proposed relocation of the Bonnie Brae from Tavistock to London.

Following group discussion, the facilitators presented the main points to the meeting. Following is a summary of the points raised.

What are the **Social Impacts** of the proposed relocation of the Bonnie Brae from Tavistock to London.

- Inconvenient to travel long distances for visiting
- “easier” drive in the country to Tavistock vs. big city driving
- Ability to walk around, interact with businesses – not possible in City
- Based on location, there are options to go to “Tim Hortons”, the library and be part of an active/busy community – even the trucks in and out of Yantzi’s provides a distraction and something to talk about
- Community groups & Church Groups visit
- School children visit and interact
- In town employees can walk to work
- Large volunteer contingent present in Tavistock
- Ability to participate in town activities, such as Fall Fair, Seniors Picnic, Parades, Churches, senior/children integration opportunities
- Loss of small town atmosphere
- Loss of relatives being close by
- Spouses have affordable options and a good social environment to be nearby, if they need to move to Tavistock to be close by (Service Clubs, Churches, opportunity for interaction with others)
- Loss of good jobs will affect the social fabric of the community and have ripple effects into other areas
- High degree of mental stress on residents – with moving and with the unknown of where they will be living
- The three nursing homes work together well, provides a cluster of Long-Term Care expertise and knowledge
- Student employment and interaction at Bonnie Brae would be lost

- While statistically, Tavistock is over-serviced with respect to Long-Term Care Beds, Tavistock is a “Centre of Excellence” when it comes to providing Long-Term Care – maybe the Province/LHIN should also take that into consideration when deciding where beds should be located
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What are the **Health Care Impacts** of the of the proposed relocation of the Bonnie Brae from Tavistock to London.

- Long-Term Care Beds are needed in this area – Stratford and Woodstock Hospitals are looking after patients that should in Long-Term Care
- The concentration of Long-Term Care Facilities is an attraction for some doctors
- Medical students may no longer come to Tavistock to gain practical experience in Long-Term Care as a reduction in beds may diminish the critical mass required to make this possible
- Doctors know their patients in the Tavistock Long-Term Care Homes, which is less likely in larger centres
- Loss of Doctors in Tavistock would affect Health Care beyond the Long-Term Care Facilities
- Possible loss of their General Practitioner if having to move to London or further away
- Loss of familiar care givers
- Increase anxiety for residents (and their family)
- Trust issues for all (family members, residents)
- Loss of opportunity for your people to explore health care careers
- Larger/newer facilities does not always translate into better Health Care for people
- High Quality Health Care depends on the people, not the structure – newer structures offer some additional opportunities for programming and service, but you need the high quality people
- Quality of Health Care would be enhanced if the Long-Term Care, Assisted Living and Retirement Homes work together to provide the complete range of Health Care requirements – Tavistock already has this some degree and it should be maintained and enhanced, not taken apart
- Some good staff may start to leave the Bonnie Brae which may affect Health Care
- Dental Care is also available right in Tavistock as well
- Will likely be increased mental health issues for residents affected by a move

What are the **Economic Impacts** of the proposed relocation of the Bonnie Brae from Tavistock to London.

- Loss of jobs ~ 80 FTE
- Loss of retail business, especially in the downtown
- Possible real estate value reductions
- Increased costs and environment impact for those now commuting
- Loss of student employment opportunities
- Out of town staff and visitors will often spend money in town
- “Trickle Down” economic effect will spread throughout the village, as many business interact with each other
- Impact on Doctors / Tavistock Community Health Inc – local doctors are the Medical Directors at the facilities – this will affect the viability of practicing in Tavistock
- Bonnie Brae currently purchases some good from businesses in town
- Local trades people are utilized for work
- Property Tax Base for County and Township affected (~\$55,000)
- Having a large vacancy on the main street is not good for the community
- Taxation loss for the Township and County (~\$55,000 / year)

Mayor McKay thanked the group facilitators for presenting the concerns raised in the discussions. He thanked those in attendance for taking the time to come out and express their thoughts and concerns. In summarizing the information gathered, it was recognized that these are the real world stories and reasons why the Bonnie Brae and PeopleCare and the Maples all provide such high quality care to residents living in long-term care facilities in Tavistock. While the Province tends to look at statistics, it is equally important to make other aware that quality health care is the most important consideration and that Tavistock is a “Centre of Excellence” when it comes to Long-Term Care.