

November 2005

How much does it cost to run a community centre without walls?

This is what the City Recreation Supervisor spent so far for Dufferin Grove Park in 2005:

- City wages....\$131,742.07(salaries and benefits)
- material and supplies.....\$4,643.46
- equipment....\$345.89(mostly cell phones)

These are the main things on which we spent the Dufferin Grove Park cookie money/etc. –

- cash wages....\$40,732.28
- material and supplies....\$10,039.50
- groceries....\$49,129.14
- research and web site management...\$15,741.89

How much does it cost to run a community centre with walls?

To build: a consultant estimated the average cost at \$15 million. The City hired another consultant to estimate the cost of a new Wabash-Sorauren Community Recreation Centre: \$21 million.

To run:

- a consultant estimated the average operating cost at \$850,000 a year
- it seems that most City community centres cost between \$600,000 and \$1 million a year to operate
- The arms-length board of management community centres like Scadding, Harbourfront, 519 Church cost about half a million dollars a year to operate

How much debt does the City of Toronto have now?

- approaching **\$5 billion**.

How much would the City of Toronto save if they worked with neighborhoods to make community centres without walls for a while?

A lot.

What did the general manager say when we asked her to give Dufferin Grove Park a realistic budget of \$200,000 a year, and to let us share what we've learned with Parks and Recreation staff citywide?

*That's an interesting idea.*

What did the general manager do to follow up?

Nothing.