

## **\$\$ - Huntley's Play Structure needs to be replaced - \$\$**

### **Why?**

- Play structures have a life span of approximately 20 to 25 years.
- The Province has new standards<sup>1</sup> that aim to keep our kids safe and provide an accessible space for children of different abilities.
- Our play structure is 21 years old (built in 1993) and is not accessible.

### **Why does the Parent Council need to raise money for this?**

#### **Good question...**

- Play structures are included in the capital project planning when a new school is being built, but replacement structures are not included in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's (OCDSB) capital planning (i.e. budgets). In fact, 131 play structures need to be replaced in the next 7 years<sup>2</sup>.
- The current formula is that the City of Ottawa contributes \$7,500, the OCDSB contributes \$7,500 and the school community (mainly parents) fund the remainder.
- The costs have increased in order to meet new accessibility standards, but the contributions from the City or Board have not (as yet) increased.
- Schools throughout Ontario face the same situation. In areas where the local community is unable to come up with necessary funds, schools can be forced to remove old equipment without a plan to replace them.
- Private sector sponsors have stepped in to fill this need, but they aim their efforts on economically disadvantages school communities.

### **So how much \$\$\$ are we talking about?**

\$85,000 - is the Board's estimate to replace Huntley Centennial's Play Structure.

The Board is currently exploring alternatives to play structures called "Outdoor Play Environments" which include naturalized play areas with natural play structures that include logs and large rocks to climb on and large sloping areas that may be more useful than structures when covered in snow. These are equally as expensive but tend to have longer lifespans.

### **Do you want to be part of the Huntley Play Structure Sub-Committee?**

Sign up at the Parent Council website [huntleycentennial.org/volunteer-sign-up/](http://huntleycentennial.org/volunteer-sign-up/)

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<sup>1</sup> These Standards are set by the Canadian Standards Association and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act which includes an integrated standard of Design of Public Spaces

<sup>2</sup> See March 2014 OCDSB Report 14-044 at:

<http://www.ocdsb.ca/calendar/AGENDA%20DOCS/2014%20DOCS/March%202014/COW%2018%20March%202014/08b%2014-044%20PlayStructures%20web.pdf>