

Big Buddies at Council

SPRINGWATER TOWNSHIP / April 7, 2010 – The Springwater Township Council meeting of April 6th had some younger audience members in attendance.



Big and Little Buddies came out to the April 6th Township of Springwater Council Meeting to promote and celebrate their program.

promote positive attitudes, offer support, and encouragement and help provide safe and healthy activities. The Big Buddies also earn volunteer hours towards their 40 hours required for high school graduation.

Springwater Township Recreation Coordinator Julie Ann Columbus runs the program, which began in 2009, and now has 84 members.

“After we had the training with the Big Buddies,” Columbus recalls, “I looked around the room and told them how proud I was of them, and I think they were proud of themselves.”

One Big Buddy shared her thoughts on why the program is such a success.

“It’s not a big thing, but it is at the same time,” she explained. The activities that the

Members of the Township’s Big Buddies program came out to update Council on their activities and outings.

The program pairs a high school student known as a ‘Big buddy’ with a younger student aged five to eight, known as a ‘little buddy’.

Big Buddies act as a mentor and a friend to their Little Buddies. They



One of the Big Buddies explains to Council why the program is such a positive thing, for Big and Little Buddies.

Buddies take part in don't cost money, and usually local and help to celebrate the community.

Buddies get together once or twice a month to take part in activities and outings, such as a Halloween Costume Parade at a local Nursing Home, a bowling party and movie night. Last fall the buddies decorated a float and took part in the Elmvale Fall Fair Parade.

After the presentation, Councillor Reg Cowan and Mayor Guergis expressed their appreciation for the program, and the popularity within the community.

"It's a great program that will only grow bigger," noted Councillor Cowan.

Big Buddies is free to join, and costs are offset by funding and grants. For more information on the program or on how to become a buddy, contact Julie Ann Columbus at 728-4784 Ext. 2054.

Springwater is a municipality of approximately 18,000 residents located in the heart of Simcoe County. The Township is governed by a seven-member council, which meets bi-monthly.

Springwater consistently offers residents one of the lowest property tax rates, in comparison to similar sized municipalities in the area, Springwater Township is also home to the second largest concentration of County Forests, and is a popular destination for outdoor activities in all four seasons.

In 2009, the Township celebrated its 15th anniversary of the amalgamated Township of Springwater.

-30-

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