

## **Westboro Kiwanis Park Play structure Renewal Project**

at Dovercourt Recreation Centre

The following is a summary account of the project the WKP (Westboro Kiwanis Park Play structure Renewal Project) undertook in replacing the old structure at Dovercourt Recreation Centre.

The first official meeting to replace the old wooden play structure took place on January 26, 2005. The GRAND OPENING party was September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006, so the entire process took 20 months. This could never have been done without the participation of a hard-working, dedicated and extremely competent group of men and women from the Dovercourt community that made up the play structure committee.

Right off the bat we divided responsibilities.

A) One group did focus groups and met with designer Jeff Kaster to work on the **DESIGN** of the play area.

Bethany Laughton organized this process and it resulted in a one-of-a kind, fully accessible, challenging and spectacular play space. It includes rubber matting for wheelchairs, a spacious and challenging play structure, new swings, a raised sand table, an award-winning infinity climber, a fitness circuit and a new tire swing.

B) Another group focused on **FUNDRAISING**, both in the community and through grants.

Under the leadership of Jeff Bossert, we received funding from:

- City of Ottawa Initial Replacement funds: \$35,000
- City of Ottawa Life Cycle Replacement funds: \$15,000
- City of Ottawa Major Capital Community program: \$50,000
- Ronald MacDonald House Charities: \$10,000
- Community Foundation of Ottawa: \$10,000
- Highland Park Ratepayers Association and Westboro Kiwanis: \$14,700
- Saturn Playgrounds \$12,000
- TD Friends of the Environment \$7,500
- Dovercourt Recreation Association: \$20,000
- Sage Kiwanis: \$10,000
- Community Fundraising (approx): \$30,000

I can't stress the importance of the latter enough. It included major fund-raising efforts (such as magnolia trees and movie nights) as well as businesses and individuals who donated cash to the project (a coin deposit was set up – one couple donated \$2000).

From an operations point of view we had tremendous support. First, through Dovercourt staff who, due to their professional expertise, enabled us to carry out all of our fundraising events. Secondly, the City of Ottawa contact person, Joanne Moran, gave us guidance throughout the project and personally ran all the "administrative" dealings with professionals before, during and post construction.

Construction commenced in May, with several delays due to shipping & wet weather.

We went slowly through the construction phase and were able to provide summer long entertainment for the camps and Centre patrons. We had our substantial completion just prior to “first play” and continued to address and complete deficiencies into the early winter. We are now in warranty mode so are requesting repairs and replacements as permitted. Public Works is now responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the park

Submitted by Ashley Wright

Chair of Dovercourt Playstructure Renewal Committee, also Board member of Dovercourt

with additional construction information from Joanne Moran.

August 30, 20007