

From: [Heather Doner](#)
To: [Clerks](#); [Accounting Durham](#); info@durhamfamilyresources.org; [Heather Doner](#)
Subject: Fwd: Draft letter to Brock Council- Cannington rent rate request
Date: August 1, 2024 4:30:11 PM

Dear Brock Township Council,

I am writing on behalf of Durham Farm and Rural Family resources, to request an amended rental rate continuation, for our use of the upper room at the Rick a MacLeish Memorial Community Centre.

Durham Farm and Rural Family Resources has been operating for over 36 years as a registered charity, supporting the well-being of children and families in North Durham Region. Particularly in Cannington, where we have rented the upper room of the Rick MacLeish arena on Monday & Friday mornings for families to drop in for programming, we have always had a very large attendance. We get up to 80 people weekly, benefitting from our free EarlyON programming here.

Being in the North, social support resource isolation is a challenge for many young families in Brock Township. Many families with young children are not able to easily travel to cities in the South to access their needs. Even then, the wait lists are often very long to be seen, and to keep up with due to long commutes.

DFRFR EarlyON is a very long-standing (almost 3 decades at the Cannington site), well utilized community resource, with cost-free services to all participants. Being able to utilize the upper room of the arena for this many years, has allowed thousands of successful participant visits to occur, and has greatly impacted the health and well-being of our residents. Multiple generations now, of Cannington residents have relied on this programming to meet their needs, and we are now servicing parents who were once our participants in their own childhoods. Much networking between families in our community, starts at what residents have come to call 'playgroup', our Play To Learn EarlyON programming.

Our community relies on us and our ability to offer services at a central location, free of charge at the arena. We keep an up to date resource library on-site, while serving as a cornerstone access point for families to gain connection to other community resources that aid the health and wellbeing of children and their parents. We provide direct support for mental health, as well as for developmental well-being. We host many valuable community partners within our space during program times, who otherwise would not be able to access as many participants, without the location and participant attendance we have built. Recently, we hosted a very successful 'Ready Set Grow' event where we acted as a hub for many organizations to attend, while parents and caregivers could speak to them directly and access connections with them. This included hosting Brock Community Health Centre, The Nourish and Develop Foundation, Family and Community Action Program, Durham Region Public Health and many others, (see attached flyer). We have also partnered with TNDF to offer programs such as 'Snack Attack' during our rented program times, to help young family participants learn about healthy, affordable snack options, while taking home recipes that they created on site. Having the kitchen available and newly renovated, has been a great asset for our programming. We very much appreciate this location and it's perfect size, while we offer year round programming that support fine and gross-motor skills, early literacy and numeracy, as well as all other developmental domains.

At DFRFR EarlyON, we study and adapt our programs based on Durham Regions EDI scores, (see <https://www.durham.ca/en/living-here/data-in-the-early-years.aspx>) and facilitate better school readiness outcomes for the surrounding schools in Cannington and Brock Township. The following skills of children in the area are studied, and the results of these scores incorporated into our programming:

- **Physical Health and Well-Being:** Children are healthy, independent, and rested each day.
- **Social Competence:** Children can play and get along with others, share and show self-confidence.
- **Emotional Maturity:** Children can concentrate on tasks, help others, show patience, and are not often aggressive or angry.
- **Language and Cognitive Development:** Children are interested in reading and writing, counting and can recognize numbers and shapes.
- **Communication skills and General Knowledge:** Children can tell a story and communicate with other adults and other children

This tool and our programming, support early learning success for students entering the school system at McCaskill's Mills, as well as other surrounding schools in Brock.

We help families to thrive, and to reach their full potentials. We help parents and children to cope with challenges from the prenatal stage to when their children are 6 years of age. We know that to proactively support them, is to also reduce crisis rates in our families in the North. We teach parenting skills, model positive parenting strategies, and connect parents to essential resourcing for their children's behavioural and developmental needs.


It would be an absolute benefit to the township as a whole, to facilitate our continuation of services, as we are a community resource, not a club or company, attempting to afford continued rental of this space which has been home to us during our very long-standing relationship. We have already approved our budget for the remainder of 2024, and would greatly appreciate to continue renting the space as we have planned.

On behalf of Durham Farm and Rural Family Resources EarlyON, I would humbly request a continuation of our adjusted lower rate rental fee of the upper room space, of Rick MacLeish Memorial Community Centre. We would love to be able to continue serving the community on Monday and Friday mornings here, and to support our growing community in the quality of services we provide. Child development and mental health support in the first 6 years of life are crucial for life-long wellbeing. We ask that the Township of Brock help us continue providing the citizens of Cannington and surrounding communities the best quality of life as possible. By helping us to support our youngest residents and their families, we can jointly actively invest in their futures.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Heather Doner
Executive Director, RECE
Durham Farm and Rural Family Resources
<https://www.durhamfamilyresources.org>



Do you have questions about your child's development, learning, speech, or behaviour?

Come visit:

Ready, Set, Grow

Monday June 10, 2024

EarlyON Brock, Rick MacLeish Arena
91 Elliot St., Cannington
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The EarlyON Child and Family Centres are offering a **FREE** drop in for parents/caregivers of children birth to six years. Bring your children and ask questions about development, learning, speech, and behaviour.

Professionals from the following agencies will be present:

- Children's Developmental and Behavioural Supports
- Durham Region Health Department
- Family and Community Action Program
- Infant and Child Development
- And more!

For more information contact Durham Health Connection Line at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 or visit

durham.ca/childdevelopment



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