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## OSPCA, municipalities continue to negotiate

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PARRY SOUND - Area municipalities and Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) representatives hashed out a few more details Monday in a bid to get the organization to return to Parry Sound.

The groups agreed to meet again, probably in the spring.

The OSPCA closed the doors of its Oastler Park Drive shelter Dec. 1, 2007 citing the cost of improving the aging building, its poor location behind Canadian Tire and the need to save money, as the reasons.

The organization also expressed concern for the safety of staff and animals in the old building.

Iain Laing, the town's director of community operations, said municipalities clarified funding numbers provided by the OSPCA prior to Monday's meeting, talked about what went wrong at the former location, and what it expected to collect from fundraising in the community. The municipal representatives also asked for the OSPCA to provide more detailed financial numbers, including possible revenue.

"We reviewed a number of requirements for a potential shelter, we clarified levels of funding and discussed different options for that funding, both from municipalities and the community," said OSPCA spokesperson Kristin Williams Tuesday morning.

No date was set for the two groups to meet again, but it's expected to happen in March or April.

Between now and then, Mr. Laing said the municipalities plan to determine if there are alternatives to township councils contributing funds for the OSPCA, such as donating land or a building.

As reported last week, preliminary numbers have the OSPCA looking for \$140,000 in operating costs split between Parry Sound, Carling, McDougall, McKellar, Seguin and Whitestone. Archipelago doesn't use the services of the OSPCA.

"If this is success, they're going to rely on donations to fund quite a (bit)," said Mr. Laing.

When asked if the OSPCA could resume operations here this summer, Ms Williams said its still too early in negotiations with area municipalities to say.

The former shelter, put up for sale last November, remains on the market, but Ms Williams said she believes there is now an interested buyer.

To house stray dogs, McDougall, Parry Sound and Seguin joined in on a temporary Parry Sound-run dog pound in a town-owned trailer.



After the local OSPCA shut its doors in December, the Town of Parry Sound opened its own temporary impound facility on MacFarlane Street to house stray dogs.



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