

Cash infusion coming to pair of local agencies

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Children's shelter gets \$60,000 from province

By *NICKI CRUICKSHANK*

Leaky roofs have dampened spirits and business at two Barrie agencies, but they won't get soaked with repair costs thanks to new funding from the provincial government.

"We applied for the funding earlier this year, and we've received the full amount, which is exciting," Lynda Muir, executive director of Women and Children's Shelter in Barrie said.

"The roof's been needing to be replaced for quite some time, and we've had a lot of leaks over the past few years.

"A big chunk of the money will go towards replacing that roof, and we're so ecstatic to have it," she added.

The shelter recently received a commitment for \$60,000 in one-time funding from the Premier Dalton McGuinty's Liberal government. The agency applied for the funding earlier this year.

Staff at Simcoe Community Services in Barrie will also have a proper roof over their heads at their facility at 40 Fraser Court after cashing in on the government's financial support. The agency received \$50,000 in repair funding.

"Our funding will go toward a new roof, too. That funding couldn't have come at a better time," Lynn Price, CEO of the agency, said. "We've seen the roof starting to deteriorate over about six years, and it's just gotten so much worse."

The money is part of a \$5 million investment by the provincial government to improve services across the province and create jobs in local communities.

"The best way to improve our economy is to invest in our people. Investing in community services creates jobs, and most importantly, hope," Barrie MPP Aileen Carroll, Ontario Minister of Culture, said in a press release. "Both these agencies provide exceptional service in our community."

Price said staff were thanking their lucky stars the funding came through for them.

"We were just notified that we were getting the funding and the people in that office are very excited," she said.

Muir hopes there will be a bit of funding left over to tackle other odd jobs at the facility.

"We do have a few other maintenance needs around here," she said. "We might consider changing our phone systems or (getting) the driveway repaved, because that's another need."

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