

On April 7th, 2014, the construction of the new Happy Hearts Childcare Centre began next to Centennial Park.

So far, a combined \$200,000 has been raised with all thanks going to supporting families, businesses, and a grant from the provincial government. Not only has the provincial government greatly assisted in the funds, but they are also providing an operating grant of \$9,650 which will be given to the daycare every year, according to Shellbrook MLA Scott Moe.

Moe also stated that the provincial government has been focusing on developing and maintaining childcare centers. “We have had an increased number of childcare facilities in our province,” he stated. “This is part of that commitment” The town has also contributed two lots for the development of the site.

All said and done, the total building costs for the Happy Hearts Childcare Center should be around \$500,000. With the money so far, the board should be able to be approved for a mortgage and begin construction. It is planned that the rest of the money will be raised in fundraisers throughout construction and with application fees. The center is planned to be finished in four to six months.

Philp said it is difficult for new families to move to Shellbrook wanting “small town life”, when it is difficult to find daycare services for their growing families. “We just don’t have enough in home people doing it, so we are looking for a facility that is licensed and will serve that need for our community.”

The Happy Hearts Childcare Center will not only be a daycare, but an early education center. There will be seven jobs available once the facility is up and running. Out of 33 available spots, 3 will be for babies, 10 will be for toddlers, and the rest will be available for preschoolers. In the daycare itself, the board plans on having a Wall of Honor, which will give recognition to their major sponsors. The other major fundraiser the board is holding is called the Brick campaign. People who wish to donate will get a brick engraved with the donator’s name, which will be displayed on the front of the building. According the Philp, the Brick campaign will be closed by the end of June, and if anybody is interested in purchasing a brick they are to call Nicole Philp at 306-747-7497 or Karisa Klasssen at 306-747-9118. You can also visit the daycares Facebook page called Happy Hearts Childcare Centre.

“The town council sees this childcare center as part of the growth of this community,” said Knight. “We are a family motivated and driven town, and families are moving away to raise their children,” he stated. “If you want them to stay here and you want this community to grow, childcare is absolutely pivotal.”

Allyssa Yarrow – Fortier Mattila Appraisals

Source: Shellbrook Chronicle