



# The Natural Choice Newsletter

SUMMER 2008

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### Pre-Authorized Payments

Tax and water installments can be withdrawn automatically from your bank account on a quarterly or monthly basis. No more missed due dates. Avoid unnecessary penalties and late charges. You will receive a tax or water bill for your records. It's convenient, and best of all, it's FREE.

Application forms are available at the West Grey municipal office or online at [www.westgrey.com](http://www.westgrey.com).

## In West Grey..Did You Know?.....

**2,092,626**  
kWh electricity consumed in municipal facilities in '07

**604**  
Farms\*

**111,177**  
Acres Farmed\*

**6,680**  
In Labour Force\*

**590**  
In Construction Industry\*

**1827**  
Tractors Owned & Leased on Farms\*

\*Source: 2006 Census, Stats Canada

## The Mayor's Message

A lot has happened since I last had a chance to put pen to paper and update you, the residents of West Grey, on the happenings in the municipal world.

Following the passage of the 2008 budget in May, resulting in a very modest overall tax increase of 2.94%, the Province announced that West Grey would be receiving funding to assist with infrastructure support. We received approximately \$1.9 million for roads and bridge work of which \$680,000 will be applied to projects approved for this year. Council will be determining additional projects that meet the funding criteria and prioritizing them over the next 2 years.

Our Provincial counterparts will also be providing \$350,000 towards the new Neustadt Hall, which is under construction now, with a completion date of December and the New Year's Eve party being the grand opening event.

A tender has been accepted to implement the corrective measures necessary for the South

Saugeen River erosion project. This has been a lengthy process, and we are glad to have reached a resolution that will allow us to move forward.

I hope that everyone will make time to explore and enjoy the beauty and grandeur that is showcased in West Grey...West Grey is definitely "**Nestled in Nature**", with its numerous natural waterways, long shaded country roads, and many secluded picnic areas. You are sure to meet great people along the way and may even discover attractions or businesses

new to you.

I would encourage each of you to support our farmers and buy locally grown produce...Good things grow....in West Grey! There is a bountiful amount of activities within our boundaries. Enjoy all that West Grey has to offer and you will be amazed at the opportunities you can experience right in your "own back yard".

...Mayor Kevin Eccles

"...Good things grow...in West Grey."  
...Mayor Eccles

## West Grey Has A New Look!

[www.westgrey.com](http://www.westgrey.com)

West Grey has redesigned its website and is proud to offer you this online tool as another way to access the Municipality's programs and services information – 24-7, from virtually anywhere.

There are many features on this website, that we are sure you will find very useful, quick, easy and convenient – such as, GIS Interactive Maps, Business Directory, "Find Your Way to West Grey" Directions, Events in our Community Calendar, By-law Search, Council Meeting Minutes and Agendas.

Overall, information sharing is important to keep the community up-to-date, whether it's about important issues affecting the Municipality or municipal services valued by the West Grey residents. Make West Grey your home page! Explore the West Grey website often!



## High Speed Internet is Here!

Grey County's broadband project is nearing completion of its target areas in West Grey. Installation has started in the northern areas of Grey County and will continue into the fall for the remaining areas.

To inquire when your area will be ready, contact Everus Communications at 800-230-7778 or fill in the site survey tool located at:  
<http://www.everus.ca/residential/sitesurvey>.

## "From The Corner Office"

Welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter. The Municipality of West Grey has been involved in many exciting projects and initiatives that are all focused on making West Grey a great place....read through this newsletter to find out what I mean.

We continue to want to stay in touch with you, so your comments about our newsletter are very welcomed.

Enjoy your summer!



...Christine Robinson  
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk



Staff at the West Grey municipal office presented a cheque for \$700 to the North Bruce-Grey MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Society rep, Mike McVittie, through collections made monthly from "West Grey Shirt day". **Front Row:** Kerri Mighton, Heather Webb, Mike McVittie (MS rep), Eunice Henning. **Middle Row:** Lorri Murdoch, Christine Robinson, Sharon Hinds, Joanne Manser, Joyce Nuhn. **Back Row:** Ken Gould, Mark Turner, Ray Holliday. -Photo by Mount Forest Confederate

## Invite the Mayor

To Invite the Mayor to your Special Event, Request a Certificate or a Congratulatory Letter, please phone: 519-369-2200 or email: info@westgrey.com. **Special Events may include:**

- ✓Official Opening
- ✓Ribbon Cutting
- ✓Speaking Engagement
- ✓Photo Opportunity

For a Special Event, please include the details of the event (date / time / location / purpose of the event) and the contact person who can be reached for more information. In order to prepare a Certificate or Congratulatory Letter, we will need to know what the certificate / letter is for and the correct spelling of the person's name and mailing address.

## Memorial Tributes...

**D**id you know there are 18 cemeteries located within the boundaries of West Grey? Many are not active but do provide unlimited historical information to residents and visitors alike.

Those cemeteries that are still actively receiving burials are operating on funds received through plot purchases, burials fees and investment income. No tax dollars are used for the operation of these sites and they are managed by volunteers with a true interest in their maintenance and preservation.

Donations are always welcome to assist these groups either by direct submission to the specific Cemetery Board or through local funeral homes as an *In Memoriam* acknowledgement of a family member or acquaintance.

**D**uring the 2008 budget deliberations, Council strived to provide value for your property tax dollar. The goal was to have a budget that is responsible and reasonable; that protects West Grey services and directs funding to where it is needed most.

The approved Budget provides for an Operation and Maintenance Budget of \$10,789,008, which supports a Capital Budget in the amount of \$6,524,167. The revenues necessary to offset the expenditures for the year are raised from several sources, including grants, donations, user fees, and of course taxation.

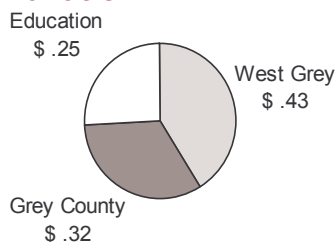
The local West Grey tax levy represents an increase of 5.28%, taking into account assessment growth realized during 2007. This translates into an overall tax impact, based on \$100,000 of residential assessment, of \$38.99 or a 2.94% increase. In addition to the West Grey local tax levy, the overall tax impact takes into account the Upper Tier or Grey County tax levy as well as the Education tax levies.

## Budget Highlights

- \$\$** The Administration Department will upgrade its municipal accounting software from its current DOS-based system to a Windows-based environment.
- \$\$** A new Fire Truck has been budgeted for the Neustadt Fire Station arriving in 2009.
- \$\$** The Public Works Department received \$1,901,896 for roads & bridges capital needs, of which \$680,000 will be spent in 2008 and the balance transferred to reserve for future roads & bridges work.
- \$\$** The budget includes \$2.3 million for the Saugeen River Erosion project in Neustadt. (Project partially funded through a COMRIF grant which provides both Federal & Provincial funding)
- \$\$** The Normanby Arena has budgeted \$50,000 for two new dehumidifiers.
- \$\$** HYDRO ONE donated \$9,000 towards a new outdoor basketball court installed at the Normanby Centennial Hall.
- \$\$** HYDRO ONE donated \$10,000 towards the previously purchased Olympia ice resurfer at the Durham Arena.
- \$\$** The Durham Arena budgeted \$42,000 for a new chiller and pump for its ice plant.
- \$\$** Renovations to the Neustadt Arena, which include insulation and siding of the exterior walls, upgrades to the heating system and ventilation levers for a budget of \$85,000. (Partially funded through a \$50,000 Trillium Grant and a \$17,500 donation from Neustadt Recreation Fundraising).
- \$\$** Construction of the \$1.2 million Neustadt Community Hall. (Project partially funded by grants, reserves, fundraising & donations)

## Apportionment Per Dollar

### Taxation



Your Loonie goes a long way. For every \$1 of taxation received, West Grey keeps only \$ .43. The other \$ .57 is split between the School Boards and the County of Grey.

## Want to Know How Your Loonie Is Spent?

Where is my tax dollar going?  
What services do I get for my Loonie?



### Operating Expenditures Per \$

Council & Admin.	\$ .11
Fire	\$ .07
Police	\$ .23
Other Protection	\$ .04
Roads/Transit	\$ .39
Health/Safety	\$ .01
Recreation	\$ .08
Library	\$ .04
Planning/Development	\$ .03
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1.00</b>

## \*\*West Grey Goes Wireless\*\*

The Municipality of West Grey is the **2008 Recipient of the E.A. Danby Certificate of Merit** from the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) in the Municipal Administration Category for municipalities with a population of less than 20,000 for the **West Grey Goes Wireless initiative.**

The Municipality of West Grey, in partnership with Wightman Telecom Ltd. has made available Wireless Hotspot locations in Neustadt and Ayton. This partnership is working for our rural / urban community to keep up with modern technology allowing business people, tourists and residents to access the internet.

### Park & Surf at these Hotspot Locations:

Fire Station- Ayton, 610 Alfred St  
 Normanby Arena-Ayton, 759 Arthur St  
 Police Sub-station-Neustadt at 512 Mill St

Library-Neustadt, 511 Mill  
 Neustadt Lion's Park



## Sign, Awning and Façade Improvement (SAFI) Program



The West Grey Downtown Revitalization-(SAFI) Program completed its initial round. Dave Barrett from the Saugeen Economic Development Corporation reports "applications submitted; totaling over \$15,000 in overall business façade/sign/awning improvements, were all approved. This means for every dollar the SAFI program has committed to invest, each downtown business is proposing to invest an average of \$6.00 in improvements."

Details and applications for future rounds are available at the West Grey Municipal office or West Grey Chamber of Commerce office, or online at [www.westgrey.com](http://www.westgrey.com), [www.westgreychamber.ca](http://www.westgreychamber.ca), or [www.sbdcc.ca](http://www.sbdcc.ca).

Deadline for the next round of applications is: **Wednesday August 27, 2008.**

229

Responses by Fire Services in West Grey in 2007

## Do I Need A Burn Permit?

### NO PERMIT REQUIRED:

All recreational (camp) fires if under 61 cm (24") in diameter.

### PERMIT REQUIRED:

In Rural areas, fires over 24" (Farmers excluded) costing \$10/month. Contact Fire Chief Phil Schwartz at 519-369-2505 or in person at 179 George St W, Durham.



### OTHER REGULATIONS

- No burning on Smog Days declared by Environment Canada.
- Barbeques are not allowed on balconies of dwelling units with 2 or more stories.

### CHECKLIST FOR ALL BURNS

- All burns must be supervised at all times, burning clean wood only.
- There must be a means of extinguishing the fire.
- Check weather & wind conditions before starting.
- All burns (excluding recreational fires) require contacting Dispatch at 519-364-2411, giving the location of the burn, 2 hours before the burn starts & again when the fire is out.

Residents will be billed for the cost of putting out the fire should the Fire Service be dispatched.

Copies of Burning By-law # 40-2008 are available online at:

<http://www.westgrey.com/bylaws.cfm>, the Fire Chief's office or the Municipal Office.

## Recycle Your Styrofoam!

- ++ Solid (large) Styrofoam Only, from packaging
- ++ Dry, Clean & in Clear Bags Only
- ++ Delivered to the Durham Landfill site on Park Street.
- ++ Demo set up at municipal office.



Watch for more details online at [www.westgrey.com](http://www.westgrey.com).

Coming Soon!

## Hazardous Waste Program

### Owen Sound

August 9<sup>th</sup>, September 6<sup>th</sup>,  
 October 4<sup>th</sup> October 18<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Owen Sound Public Works Facility  
 Household Hazardous Waste Depot  
 1900-20<sup>th</sup> Street East, Owen Sound.

### Hanover

September 13, 2008 10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
 Hanover Board of Works Yard  
 70 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Industrial Park)

A list of HHW materials accepted is available at the West Grey Municipal office or online at [www.westgrey.com](http://www.westgrey.com). (Not included: Industrial, Commercial, Institutional or Farm Hazardous Waste)

## Keep West Grey Beautiful

Illegal garbage dumping creates eyesores on our streets, rural roads and destroys the ambience of our community, reducing our quality of life, property values, and a feeling of safety and well-being in the community.

By-law # 10-2008 was passed prohibiting the dumping of refuse or debris on property within West Grey, other than those areas designated by the Municipality. Any person who contravenes this by-law is subject to a \$150 fine plus court costs as well as all costs associated for the clean-up.

The West Grey Police Service will investigate all garbage dumping complaints and all persons found responsible will be held accountable. Anyone witnessing illegal garbage dumping is encouraged to call **Police Dispatch at 519-364-2411**, providing as much detail as possible including exact location, vehicle description and licence plate number and suspect description.

To eliminate refuse on roadways when travelling to the landfill site, residents should ensure their load is secure, as they can be charged under the Highway Traffic Act.



## At the Municipal Office

FREE

West Grey Maps  
 Brochures  
 Water Sample Bottles  
 No Smoking Signs

Blue Boxes: \$10.50  
 Bag Tags: \$1 / tag  
 West Grey Lapel Pins: \$2  
 Grey County Map Books: \$7  
 Durham Ag Society Tote Bags: \$10

FOR SALE

History Books:  
 Durham-\$20  
 Bentinck-\$45  
 Normanby-\$25

# GET ACTIVE IN WEST GREY!

## WEST GREY GOES SKATING!

### Normanby Arena Complex-Ayton

Ph: 519-665-7850

#### Public Skating(September to April Season)

Admission \$1.00

Saturday 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

#### Extra Public Skating

Christmas Break, March

Break & School PA days,

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Phone for specific dates.



### Neustadt Arena

Ph: 519-369-2200

#### Roller Skating

Fridays(Year Round) 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Saturdays(October to June)7:00 to 9:00 pm

### Durham & District Community Centre

Ph: 519-369-5771

#### Skating (October to April Season)

Noon Skate Free Admission

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Tiny Tots Skate- Free Admission

Monday 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Thursday 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Public Skating-Admission \$1.00

Sunday 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Christmas & March Break Public Skating

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Phone for specific dates.

## MAKE A SPLASH IN WEST GREY!

### Swimming Lessons

Next Session: August 11 to August 22

Swim Kids 1-4 \$45

Swim Kids 5-10 \$50

Family of 3 or more \$125



Please register at the Municipal office

8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

For more information please contact Randy Murray at 519-369-5771.

### Wading Pool Schedule

Durham

Monday to Friday, & Sunday

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Tuesday & Thursday Evenings

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Saturday Available for rental

1 1/2 hours: \$30 + GST

## WEST GREY LIBRARY

Durham Branch—240 Garafraxa St.N,

Tuesday to Friday 11:00 am – 8:00 pm

Saturday 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

519-369-2107

Normanby Branch- Community School, Ayton

Tuesday and Friday 3:30 pm– 8:00 pm

519-665-7784

Neustadt Branch – 511 Mill St.

Thursday 2:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Saturday 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

519-799-5830

Elmwood Branch – 25 Main St.

Tuesday and Friday 2:00 pm– 8:00 pm

519-363-3321

Looking for something for your school aged child to do this **summer**? Why not bring them to the library to enjoy all the wonderful books, magazines, and videos available?

Thanks in part to the Life Long Learning Grant and the Friends of the Durham Library, the Durham branch of the West Grey Public Libraries purchased two Early Literacy computer stations for the children's department. These units are specifically designed for children aged 2 –11, with a colourful keyboard, child sized mouse and over 20 educational games preloaded into the system. These stations have become a popular stop for young children.

The Durham Branch of the West Grey Libraries will be providing the Beyond Books story times for children ages 2 1/2 to 5. This free program includes songs, stories and crafts and will take place from:

September 25th to November 13th

11:30 am to 12:15 pm (Every Thursday)

Registration: September 15th to 19th-Contact Christine at the Durham Library branch

### Other Contacts

Fire & Police Dispatch: 519-364-2411

Fire Chief Phil Schwartz: 519-369-2505

Assessment Office: 1-877-215-0043

Land Registry: 519-376-1637

Ministry of Agriculture: 1-800-469-2285

Bill Murdoch, MPP: 519-371-2421

Larry Miller, MP: 519-371-1059

Grey County: 519-376-2205

Public Health Unit: 519-376-9420

SVCA: 519-364-1255

#### Canine Control Officers

Gary Ransome 519-369-2617 (for Durham)

Richard Parker 519-364-3601

(For All other Areas in West Grey)

## COMING EVENTS

### Funfest Ball Tournament

24th Annual Neustadt Recreation Slo-Pitch

August 29 to August 31, 2008

Location: Neustadt Ball Park

Contact: Audrey Filsinger 519-799-5342

### Fall Fair-Durham's 150th

Thursday, August 28 to Sunday, August 31

Location: Durham Community Centre

Contact: Jack Milligan 519-369-6712

### Fall Fair

138th Neustadt Normanby & Carrick Fair

Saturday, September 20, 2008

Location: Neustadt Arena & Ball Diamond

### Annual Golf Tournament

Normanby Recreation Committee

Saturday, September 20, 2008

Location: Buck's Crossing & Walkerton Golf

Dinner & Prizes: Normanby Arena Complex

Contact: Marg Rapp 519-665-2137

### Halloween Dance

Neustadt New Hall Committee

Saturday October 25, 2008

9:00 pm to 1:00 am

Location: Neustadt Community Hall

Prizes for Best Costumes

### Annual Fall Craft Show

Neustadt Recreation Committee

Saturday, November 1, 2008, 10:00 am

Location: Neustadt Arena & Community Hall

Contact: Audrey Filsinger 519-799-5342

### Annual Santa Claus Parades

Neustadt & Durham

Times & Dates N/A

Check out other community events on our website at [www.westgrey.com](http://www.westgrey.com). You may also list your community event by submitting it online.

Questions?



#### Contact our Office

519-369-2200 or 1-800-538-9647

Fax 519-369-5962

Email: [info@westgrey.com](mailto:info@westgrey.com)

[www.westgrey.com](http://www.westgrey.com)

#### Office Hours: Monday to Friday

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

#### Mailing Address:

402813 Grey Rd 4, RR 2

Durham, ON N0G 1R0