



The Natural Choice Newsletter

WINTER 2008

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Recycling & Garbage Schedule

West Grey Trivia

Population: 12,195

Males: 6,185 Females: 6,005

Median Age: 44.3

of Families: 3630

Lived at same address 5 yrs ago:
7,915

Source: 2006 Census, Stats Canada

The Mayor's Message

A classic West Grey winter is a perfect time to assess our accomplishments in 2007 and focus on the upcoming year.

In this year past, Council developed a Mission/Vision Statement and Strategic Plan to direct West Grey in the coming years. With this, Council and staff will have the tools and direction to carry out business for the future with a clear framework in place. Strategic Planning is the process of taking the philosophical direction of Council and putting it to print, allowing Administration, Ratepayers and Council to have a constant and consistent reference tool.

A number of infrastructure jobs were completed this year, the biggest being water/sewer work in the upper tier of the Durham system. With the assistance of the gas tax rebate, a number of road resurfacing jobs were also completed. Many changes and upgrades have been made at our landfill sites improving the aesthetic value of the area, and more importantly making it safer for the public by controlling traffic access and flow.

Building permits totalled 247 last year, 41 of which were for new single family residences. Sixteen new rural/urban residential lots were created through the severance process.

High speed internet access for West Grey is becoming more of a reality. With the aid of a

federal grant, the County of Grey is starting the process of a broadband network in south central Grey County. If no problems are encountered, this means that most of Glenelg and a large part of Bentinck will have high speed internet access by this time next year.

On a local front, West Grey and Wightman Telecom have partnered to install wireless "Hot Spots" in Neustadt and Ayton. This allows local residents as well as visitors to these communities to access the internet free of charge from five "Hot Spot" points. Imagine sitting at the rink in Ayton or the park in Neustadt with a laptop computer and communicating with someone on the other side of the world!

West Grey's future is looking bright. Many works programs and projects are being developed to improve and create a better West Grey for all. With the budget process well underway, one of the projects that are high priority is the Neustadt Hall, which had it's symbolic sod turning New Year's Eve. Other projects are Road Infrastructure, and of course the South Saugeen River erosion issue. With limited outside funding, the Council and staff will do everything possible to make West Grey an efficient progressive municipality that you can be proud of. I wish everyone the best for 2008 and beyond.

"West Grey's future is looking bright."
...Mayor Eccles

...Mayor Kevin Eccles

Corporate Mission

The Municipality of West Grey is a caring community, nestled in nature, dedicated to providing quality of life and services in a sustainable and professional manner.

Community Values

Caring
Community Minded/
Sense of Community
Compassionate
Generous
Honesty
Optimism
Respect
Sharing

Community Vision

West Grey is proud to be a safe, unique and welcoming community providing unlimited opportunities for all.

Goals

Citizen Education & Involvement
Effective Infrastructure Management
Enhance Community Character
Efficient Fiscal Stewardship
Planned Orderly Growth
Proactive Leadership
Quality Customer Service Delivery
Responsible Economic Development

Corporate Values

Accountability
Consistency
Honesty
Inclusiveness
Initiative
Integrity
Open & Transparent
Respect

Strategic Plan 2007-2010

West Grey Council has developed a Strategic Plan that sets the direction of the Municipality /Corporation for the term of Council. The Strategic Plan acts as a blueprint for the corporation's future policy and resource decisions. It sets out long-term goals and short-term areas of focus. Simply put, strategic planning helps an organization to do a better job by ensuring all members of the organization are working towards the same goals. The Strategic Plan clearly outlines defined **Mission, Vision, Values, Goals and Strategic Priorities** that are required to move the organization and the community toward Council's desired future.

The Plan also establishes an ability to measure each goal and priority to guide progress and track accomplishments. The Strategic Plan will also be linked to Departmental Plans and initiative through annual business planning and budgeting process. Sound planning and management are very important. As a community West Grey is faced with and must adjust to, different economic and social realities, so it becomes necessary to keep an eye on the future while managing today.

Strategic Priorities

Build & Strengthen the Community of West Grey's Identity & Character
Continued Improvement of Fiscal Stewardship & Asset Management
Continue to Act as an Open & Honest Government
Continue to Review Processes for Improvement & Enhancements
Encourage and Defend Environmental Stewardship
Maximize Utilization & Values of Existing Assets & Resources
Promote Customer Service, Communication & Involvement
Promote Economic Growth, Vitality & Entrepreneurship
Support & Encourage Growth in the Volunteer Community

"From The Corner Office"

Winter gives us time to pause and reflect upon the accomplishments of the past year while gearing up to meet the challenges of 2008. It has been a good year for West Grey and this edition of "The Natural Choice" Newsletter contains articles and information which reflects that. Enjoy reading this Newsletter and as

always, we welcome your comments. Happy New Year everyone!

...Christine Robinson
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk



Did You Know?

of Tax Bills Printed: 7051

of Pre-Authorized Accounts: 8.5 %

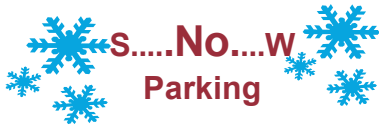
It's Your Choice

Bill Payment Options for Taxes & Water

West Grey offers several ways to make your bill payments, including:

1. **At the Municipal Office** during office hours using cash, cheque or debit.
2. **Leave your payment in the drop box** at the front door of the Municipal Office after hours;
3. **By mail;**
4. **Postdated cheques;**
5. **Telephone or internet banking;**
Contact your bank branch to enroll in Telephone or Online Banking & add West Grey Taxes or Water to your payee list. Online payments require all 19 digits of the roll number starting with 4205.
6. **Pre-Authorized Payments.**
Your tax and water installments can be withdrawn automatically from your bank account on a quarterly or monthly basis. This is a free service to you. Application forms are available at the municipal office or www.westgrey.com/forms.cfm.

Penalty/interest is added at the rate of 1¼% to the outstanding taxes on the first day of each month thereafter, until paid. To avoid interest and penalty charges, payments must be received at the Municipal Office by the due date.



A reminder to West Grey residents that no person shall park or stand a vehicle on a highway in such a manner as to interfere with the clearing of snow from the highway. Additionally, on Garafraxa Street in the Town of Durham between George and Douglas Street, no person shall park between the hours of 12 midnight and 7:00 am from November 15th to April 15th.

Dog tags can be purchased directly at the municipal office, either in person or by mail. Tags can also be purchased at all West Grey library branches.

Dog Tags

Before May 30, 2008

1 Dog: \$15 Total

2 Dogs: \$40 Total

3 Dogs: \$75 Total

4 Dogs: \$120 Total

Each Additional Dog: Add \$45 to this total.

After May 30, 2008-Add \$5 per dog.

Dog owners failing to pay prior to May 30, 2008, are also subject to fines under the Provincial Offences Act. Please call the municipal office if you paid dog tags in 2007, but no longer own a dog to avoid additional fees.

Remember, if your dog gets lost, having a tag is your dog's ticket back home.



**Your Dog's
Ticket
Home**



Lost Your Dog?

If you have lost your dog, you may contact the canine control officer in your area.

Richard Parker 519-364-3601

For: Normanby, Neustadt,
Glenelg, Bentinck

Gary Ransome 519-369-2617

For: Durham

You may also contact the veterinarians in the area, as your dog may have been dropped off there.

A record is kept of dog owners and their dogs' tag numbers, so if someone finds your dog wearing his tag, then a call to the canine control officer or to the municipal office will ensure your dog's **return home**.

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

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.

Beyond Books Story Times:

April 3rd to May 15th 11:30 am to 12:15 pm (Every Thursday)

Registration: The week of March 25th-Contact Christine at the Durham Library branch

Looking for something for your school aged child to do this **March break**? Why not bring them to the library? Along with all the wonderful books, magazines, and videos we will be having some fun with a **LOL, Laugh Out Loud program!**

Tuesday March 11 3:30 pm in Normanby

Wednesday March 12 1:00 pm in Durham.

Again this summer, the reading club will be offered at all branches with the **Laugh Out Loud** theme.



of Users at West Grey Library Branches:

Neustadt: 207

Normanby: 300

Elmwood: 223

Durham: 2526

Total Users: 3256



Commercial or Industrial Vacant Unit Rebates

The deadline for submitting a Vacant Unit Rebate Application for the 2007 taxation year is February 28, 2008. Rebate applications must be filed annually.

Eligibility criteria include:

- ✓ The building must be included in commercial/industrial assessment class.
 - ✓ The building was unused for at least 90 consecutive days.
 - ✓ Commercial buildings must be capable of being leased for immediate occupation, undergoing renovations/repairs or unfit for occupation.
 - ✓ The building is not eligible if it is used on a seasonal basis or if it was subject to a lease.
- Application Forms can be obtained at the municipal office or www.westgrey.com/forms/cfm.

Before You Say "I Do"

For those planning a wedding in 2008 be sure to include the West Grey Administration Office on your "to do" list. Marriage Applications are available upon request to those individuals who are at least 18 years of age. The input of both the bride and groom is required for completion. The completed application can be submitted along with photo identification and original court documents if either party has had a marriage dissolved. At least one party needs to be present to obtain the licence. Keep in mind that it expires three months after the date of issue, so time your request appropriately. The cost to purchase a marriage licence in West Grey is \$100.



FACT
of Marriage Licences
Issued in 2007: 39

West Grey has many facilities to accommodate your big day. See back page of this newsletter to determine which one suits your individual needs. If you are planning to rent a tent for your reception or ceremony, you may require a building permit if it is more than 645 sq. ft. Contact our Building department for details.

Consider using one of the picturesque parks, riverside settings or golf courses in West Grey as the backdrop for your wedding photos.

100 Deer/Car Collisions Reported in 2007



To reduce the risk of having a collision with a deer:

Scan ditches from side to side. If you see a deer at the side of the road, slow down as it may suddenly bolt out onto the road.

The saying goes: "If you see one, there's usually two", so slow down and watch out. Watch for yellow "Deer Crossing" signs indicating an area of increased risk.

Use high beams at night wherever possible. Be more alert at dusk and dawn when most car/deer collisions occur.

Avoid swerving suddenly as this could cause you to lose control of your vehicle and head into oncoming traffic.

Brake firmly if a deer is standing on or crossing the roadway. Do not assume the deer will get out of your way.

See How Council Meetings Operate

All meetings are open to the public to view the proceedings. See how By-laws are created and policies are developed.

2008 Council Meetings

Day Meeting: 10:00 am

Monday, January 7
Monday, February 4
Monday, March 3
Monday, April 7
Monday, May 5
Monday, June 2
Monday, July 7
Wednesday, August 6
Wednesday, September 3
Monday, October 6
Monday, November 3
Monday, December 1
Council Closed Sessions (when required)

Evening Meeting: 7:00 pm

Monday, January 21
Thursday, February 21
Monday, March 17
Monday, April 21
Thursday, May 22
Monday, June 16
Monday, July 21
Monday, August 18
Monday, September 15
Monday, October 20
Monday, November 17
Monday, December 15
Mornings- 9:00 a.m Evenings-6:00 pm

2008 Committee of the Whole Meetings (9:00 am)

Monday, January 28
Monday, July 28
Monday, March 31
Monday, September 29
Monday, May 26
Monday, November 24

Explore West Grey with GIS!

Grey County's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) has an online mapping application that combines digital maps with land related information for all areas of Grey County including West Grey. GIS is available on the County of Grey's website.

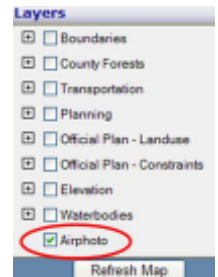
Some of the information on this site includes:

Property Information
Environmental Features
Tourist Information
Planning related information
Transportation information

Go to: <http://www.greycounty.ca/maps/>

Click on:

GIS Mapping Site
Interactive Maps
Planning



After hitting the Queries tab, you can locate the parcel of land using Lot/Concession, or Roll # or Fire #. To get a bird's eye view of any property in Grey County, be sure to **zoom in**, then click on the **Layers** tab, and check off **Airphoto** and **Refresh Map**. If you experience difficulty with this site, please contact the County of Grey at 519-376-2205.

West Grey Goes Wireless

The Municipality of West Grey, in partnership with Wightman Telecom Ltd. has made available Wireless Hotspot locations in Neustadt and Ayton. With this initiative both Wightman Telecom Ltd. and West Grey are building on our community in an interesting and innovative way.

West Grey is moving ahead with E-Technology. Wireless technology allows for business people, tourists and residents to access the internet for modern communications and Wightman Telecom Ltd. has made this possible. This partnership is working for our rural / urban community to keep up with modern technology. People can stay connected.

West Grey has 4 Hotspot locations:

Former Municipal Office in Ayton	610 Alfred Street
Normanby Arena-Ayton	759 Arthur Street
Neustadt Library	511 Mill Street
Police Sub-station-Neustadt	512 Mill Street

In the spring, the **Lion's Park (Neustadt)**, **David Winkler Parkway** will be the 5th Hotspot. This location ultimately represents a Wireless Hotspot as people can sit in the park, enjoy being outside, turn on their computer and connect to the internet.

Visit the Wightman Telecom Ltd. website at: www.wightman.ca



GET ACTIVE IN WEST GREY!

WEST GREY GOES SKATING!

Normanby Arena Complex-Ayton

Ph: 519-665-7850

Public Skating(Ending March 31, 2008)

Admission \$1.00

Saturday 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Extra Public Skating

February 1, March 11,13

2:00 to 3:30 pm



Neustadt Arena

Ph: 519-799-5356

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 (Ending April 30, 2008)

Noon Skate Free Admission

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

12:00 to 1:00 pm

Tiny Tots Skate- Free Admission

Monday 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Thursday 10:00 to 11:00 am

Public Skating-Admission \$1.00

Saturday 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Sunday 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

March Break Public Skating

March 10, 12, 14

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

LETS PLAY BALL!

To Book Ball Diamond: (starting in May)

Durham Ball Park 519-369-5771

Ayton Ball Park 519-665-7850

Neustadt Ball Park 519-665-7850

SOCCKER REGISTRATION

Durham Arena

Thursday, February 14,28 4:00 pm-7:00 pm

Saturday, Feb. 16, March 1 9:00 am-Noon

Contact: Karl Schipprack 519-369-5868

LOOKING FOR A SPACE TO RENT FOR AN EVENT?

Lamlash Hall-Capacity 65

Durham Town Hall-Capacity 150-(2 floors)

Contact: Municipal Office 519-369-2200

Durham Community Centre-Capacity 400

Contact: Randy Murray 519-369-5771

Ayton Centennial Hall-Capacity 218

Normanby Arena Complex-Capacity 450

Contact: Tom Culliton 519-665-7850

Neustadt Community Hall-Capacity 192

Contact: Lisa Kaufman 519-799-5719

Glenelg Hall-Capacity 50

Contact: Franklin Jackson 519-369-5823

Contact: Gloria Morris 519-369-3769

Contact:Joanne Timmins 519-369-5288

Neustadt Arena Floor-Capacity 1200

Contact: Laverne Johnstone 519-799-5356

Durham Arena Floor-Capacity 1200

Contact: Randy Murray 519-369-5771

Ayton Arena Floor-Capacity 1200

Contact: Tom Culliton 519-665-7850

For Public Viewing

All information pertaining to the "New Safe Drinking Water Act" and "Sustainable Water and Sewage Systems Act" along with the Durham and Neustadt water/sewer systems annual reports are available to the public for review at the West Grey Municipal Office.

Directory:

Fire & Police Dispatch: 519-364-2411

Fire Chief Phil Schwartz: 519-369-2505

Assessment Office: 1-877-215-0043

Land Registry: 519-376-1637

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

Richard Parker 519-364-3601

Normanby, Neustadt, Bentinck, Glenelg

Gary Ransome 519-369-2617 Durham

COMING EVENTS

Craft, Hobby & Garden Show

Neustadt Recreation

Saturday, May 3, 2008 at 10:00 am

Neustadt Arena

Contact: Audrey Filsinger 519-799-5342

Country 93 Video Dance

Durham Recreation & Durham Fire Dept.

Saturday May 10, 2008

Durham Arena

Contact: Randy Murray 519-369-5771

Family Ball Tournament

23rd Annual Normanby Recreation Slo-Pitch

July 25th to 27th

Ayton Ball Diamond

Contact: Tom Culliton 519-665-7850

Plant and Craft Sale

Glenelg Hall Fundraising

Saturday, May 10, 2008

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Glenelg Hall, Baptist Church Rd

Plant donations welcomed.

Contact: Gloria Morris 519-369-3769

Neustadt Hall Fundraising

Watch for upcoming events in your local paper and on the West Grey website.

Check out other community events on our website at www.westgrey.com. You may also list your community event by submitting it online at westgrey.com.

We would like to hear your views on recreation. Please contact us at 519-369-2200 or email us at info@westgrey.com.



Tack this newsletter on your bulletin board or place in your phone book for future quick reference.

Did You Know?

Our website www.westgrey.com has all the current Minutes and By-laws. Fee Schedules and forms are also available for downloading.

Questions?

Contact our Office

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

Fax 519-369-5962

Email: info@westgrey.com

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



New to the Area?

Visit our Municipal office!

FREE:

West Grey Maps

Water Sample Bottles

No Smoking Signs

Birth Certificate forms

Old Age Pension forms

CPP forms

FOR SALE:

Blue Boxes: \$10.50

Bag Tags: \$1.00 per tag

West Grey Lapel Pins: \$2.00

Grey County Map Books: \$7.00

Dog Tags

History Books:

Durham-\$20.00

Bentinck-\$45.00

Normanby Vol 1 or 2: \$25

