



THE NATURAL CHOICE

JANUARY 2006

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West Grey Trivia

- ◆ Population is 11,741
- ◆ Total Taxable Assessment is 1,001,783,735
- ◆ # of Tax Bills mailed is 6,973
- ◆ # of Dog Tags sold in 2005 is nearly 2000
- ◆ # of full-time employees is 51
- ◆ # of Tonnes diverted for Recycling in 2004 was 848
- ◆ # of snow plows/sanders is 17

Did you know that Municipal Performance Measurements are reported annually? Check out our website at westgrey.com for full details.

The Mayor's Message

A new year gives us an opportunity to reflect on the past but more importantly look to the future. We can't change yesterday so time is better spent on planning for tomorrow and the future. On behalf of the Municipality, I would like to wish each of you a healthy, prosperous and blessed new year.

2005 was a good year for West Grey. We issued approximately 75 permits for new homes and/or residential units. There were a total of 225 permits issued last year. It was a very strong year for new assessment for 2005.

We know it will be another difficult budget because of inflationary pressures, but we will work through those as we always do and try to find ways to mitigate

increases. This becomes more difficult each year because savings are harder to find. There are always challenges to face when developing a budget and unforeseen circumstances may arise as the process unfolds. Of course 2006 is a re-assessment year, so we will experience shifts in assessed value between properties and that of course results in taxes affecting each of us differently.

If at any time, you have questions or problems, please feel free to contact the office or a member of Council including myself at any time. We will do our best to resolve your issue. All the best in 2006 from West Grey.

"We can't change yesterday so time is better spent on planning for tomorrow and the future"...Mayor Becker

...Mayor Delton Becker

Tourism

West Grey continues to assist the Saugeen Country Tourism Association to promote tourism across the watershed. West Grey Council recognizes the importance of tourism as a major component of the local economy and a focus of many small businesses. The West Grey Economic Development Committee will continue to investigate new ways of promoting an appreciation of tourism in West Grey in 2006. This Committee is also working with local businesses in promoting downtown improvements and local heritage.

Saugeen River Erosion – Neustadt Sewage Lagoon

West Grey continues to press the Provincial Government to do the right thing and fix the erosion problem caused by the Saugeen River to the banks of the Neustadt sewage lagoon. The costs to rectify this situation have been estimated at approximately one million dollars, and the Province has proposed that the 230 users of the system in Neustadt should cover the municipal share of these costs. West Grey has stated that the Saugeen River is the responsibility of the Province and that the damage caused by the movement of the river is a responsibility of the Provincial government.

Check Your Property Assessment

Take a minute to review your new Assessment Notice mailed to you last fall, to ensure that the value, classification, and school support designation are accurate.

If details about your property are incorrect, contact the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). You may be able to resolve the matter, at no charge, through a Request for Reconsideration process, (filing deadline is December 31, 2006). If you wish to file a formal appeal to the Assessment Review Board (ARB) you must submit the Notice of Complaint Form along with the appropriate filing fee by March 31, 2006. Both forms are available at the Municipal Office or online at www.mpac.ca.

The enclosed Interim Tax Billing uses the prior year's assessment values. The new assessment values will not be used until the Final 2006 Tax Billing is mailed to you in July.



Stoop & Scoop

Dog owners are required by by-law to stoop and scoop after their dogs. Please do your part by being a responsible dog owner, and also help ensure a clean, sanitary place to live in.

Dogs Running At Large

Dogs must be under the control of their owners at all times. Dogs found running at large will be impounded by the canine control officer, and pound fees and fines will be levied against the offending dog owner.

Did you know there are a total of 750 km of road to snowplow in West Grey?



Winter Has Arrived ...

Parking of Vehicles on Roadways & Streets and Obstructing Snow & Ice Removal

Vehicles should not be parked on any road or street in the Municipality of West Grey so as to interfere with the removal of snow or ice. Any such vehicles so found are subject to being towed away and stored at the owner's expense, according to Section 147 of the Highway Traffic Act.

No person shall deposit snow or ice on the road or street according to Section 157 of the Highway Traffic Act.

Notice of Temporary Road Closure

Concession 2 WGR between Road 71 and Hwy 89, in the former Normanby Township will be closed to through traffic effective December 1st, 2005 until the summer of 2006. This section of road will be closed until the bridge repairs are completed at Concession 2 WGR, Lot 75, known as "Shane's Bridge". Sorry for any inconvenience this will cause to the traveling public.

Remember to Tag Your Best Friend

There will be no door-to-door canvassing for dog tag licenses this year. However, dog tags can be purchased directly or payment mailed to the municipal office. Tags can also be purchased at the library in Durham.

Dog Tags

Before May 30, 2006

1st Dog - \$15 2nd Dog - \$25

3rd Dog - \$35 4th Dog & Each

Additional Dog - \$45

For example, payment owing for three dogs paid prior to May 30 is \$75.

After May 30, 2006-- Add an additional \$5 per dog

Dog owners failing to pay for year 2006 dog tags prior to May 30, 2006, are also subject to fines under the Provincial Offences Act. There may be visits to dog owners not paid in 2006, but are listed as having dogs in 2005. Please call the municipal office if you paid dog tags in 2005, but no longer own a dog.

Commercial or Industrial Vacant Unit Rebates

The deadline for submitting a Vacant Unit Rebate Application for the 2005 taxation year is February 28, 2006. Rebate applications must be filed annually. Eligibility criteria include:

- ✓ The building must be included in the commercial or industrial assessment class.
- ✓ The building or unit 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 for a commercial or industrial activity on a seasonal basis or if it was subject to a lease.

Application Forms can be obtained from the municipal office or www.westgrey.com/forms/cfm

Public Works Notices

Mail Box Installations and Locations

Your mailbox must be approved by the West Grey Public Works department prior to any new or replacement installation and to ensure that the location meets with approval.

New Municipal Drain Repair Grant

On September 22nd, 2005, Minister Dombrowsky of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, announced the new policies for the Agricultural Drainage Infrastructure Program. Under the new program the Ministry will be providing grants to agriculture landowners for up to one third of the costs for New Municipal Drain Construction or Improvements Projects, and Municipal Drain Maintenance or Repair.

To qualify for this new grant for 2006, all requests for clean out or repair to an existing Municipal Drain must be submitted in writing to the Drainage Superintendent, West Grey Department of Public Works, by February 21st, 2006.

Water & Sewer Update

All information pertaining to the "New Safe Drinking Water Act" and "Sustainable Water and Sewage Systems Act" are available to the public for review. All public information including annual reports for the Durham and Neustadt Water and Sewer Systems are available for viewing at the West Grey Municipal Office.

Cross Connection

If you have another water supply hooked up to the municipal water system, it is defined as a cross connection, and is illegal. Please ensure that there are separate and distinct hook-ups.

Water Meter Readings

Residents of the Town of Durham and the Village of Neustadt please ensure that during the winter season access to your water meter is kept open.

Also throughout the year, keep dogs away from the vicinity of the meter so the reading can be done without disruption.

Building Code Changes

Requires Designer Qualifications

The Ontario government has passed Bill 124 which is intended to protect owners of construction projects and to provide a province wide system of administration for the building industry. Essentially, anyone who provides design services to another person for a building or part thereof in Ontario must be qualified, have insurance and be registered with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Any designer having these requirements will have a BCIN (Building Code Identification Number) which must be clearly marked on any plans submitted with a Building Permit Application. This requirement applies to all structures as defined in the Building Code Act and to septic systems. If you have someone preparing plans for you, ensure that they have a valid BCIN. Designer qualifications can be checked on the Public Registry located on the Ministry's website at <https://csconramp.mah.gov.on.ca/onmah/searchPre.do>.

Do I Need a Building Permit?

Building permits are required for any addition to an existing building, new structures greater than 10 square metres in area (108 square feet), pools, decks adjacent to a building or changes to heating systems etc, such as the addition of a woodstove. Additionally, Renovation Permits and Change of Use Permits may be required for various projects.

Applying for a Building Permit?

A building permit application must include a dimensioned site plan, 4 elevation views, floor plans, framing plans, cross sections of each type of construction, foundation plan and any other drawings necessary to clearly indicate how the proposed building will meet the requirements of the Ontario Building Code. Incomplete applications cannot be accepted. The construction of a new home on a vacant lot will require appropriate zoning, approved application for a septic system (if no municipal service) and may require an entrance permit and civic address if they do not already exist.

If you are applying for a permit to construct you may obtain the necessary application from the Municipal Office or by visiting our website at <http://www.westgrey.com/forms.cfm>.

Planning & Development Initiatives

The year 2005 was very busy for West Grey on the planning and development front. There have been more applications and proposals for new developments in West Grey in 2005, than during 2004. It is expected that 2006 will also be a year of growth for West Grey.

To address the concerns of servicing new development in West Grey, the Council has passed a Development Charges By-law. This by-law applies to new development, and relates only to the costs of increased future capacity. This ensures that new development will be paying its fair share of future servicing costs.

**Watch for the
New Zoning By-law
Coming Soon!**

Zoning By-law Reaches Final Phase

The new West Grey Zoning By-law was reviewed by the public at a Public Meeting held on December 13, 2005. The new Zoning By-law is a consolidation of the former Zoning By-laws from the previous former municipalities. This new Zoning By-law simplifies many of the zoning approaches used in the past, and allows for a wider range of permitted uses within the zones.

Copies of the new Zoning By-law are available for review at the Municipal Office, or on the Municipal web site at westgrey.com.

West Grey Economic Development Strategy

The Council of West Grey has approved the West Grey Economic Development Strategy, and adopted a multi-year Implementation Report. This strategy and report will provide the direction and tools to ensure that the economy of West Grey remains strong over the long term. The West Grey Economic Development Committee and Council, will be working with local businesses and business groups, on various projects to promote business opportunities in West Grey.

Smoke Alarm Requirements Change for 2006

A recent amendment to the Ontario Fire Code requires homes to have working smoke alarms on every level. This is in addition to the existing requirement of having smoke alarms outside all sleeping areas. This applies to single family, semi-detached and town homes, whether owner-occupied or rented.

To increase awareness and the importance of working smoke alarms, the West Grey Fire Service will be launching **Working Smoke Alarms: It's the Law**, a provincial awareness campaign developed by the Office of the Fire Marshal. In addition to its focus on smoke alarm requirements, the campaign will educate the public about smoke alarm technology, installation and maintenance.

"This campaign is a welcome addition to our regular smoke alarm program. Our goal is to ensure every home in West Grey has a working smoke alarm on every level. No one needs to die in a fire, and the West Grey Fire Service will be doing everything we can to help you keep your home and your family safe," says Fire Chief Phil Schwartz.

"Our goal is to ensure every home in West Grey has a working smoke alarm on every level"...Chief Schwartz

Statistics from the Office of the Fire Marshal indicate that in about fifty per cent of fatal home fires in Ontario, the victims had no smoke alarm warning. Non-compliance with the Fire Code smoke alarm requirements can result in a ticket of \$235 or a fine of up to \$25,000.

For information about smoke alarm requirements, installation and maintenance, contact the West Grey Fire Service at 369-2505.

LETS GO SKATING!

Durham & District Community Centre

Noon Skate Free

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
12:00 to 1:00 pm

Tiny Tots Skate Free

Monday 1:00 to 2:00 pm
Thursday 10:00 to 11:00 am

Public Skating-Admission \$1.00

1:00 to 1:50 pm
January 29 February 12 March 5, 12, 19, 26

March Break Skating-Free Admission

March 13, 15, 17 1:00 to 2:00 pm
All Skating Times in effect until the end of March



Normanby Arena Complex-Ayton

Public Skating-Admission \$1.00

Saturday Evenings 7:00-8:30pm

March Break Skating-Admission-\$1.00

March 13, 15, 17 2:00 to 3:30 pm

Neustadt Arena

Roller Skating

Friday & Saturday Nights 7 to 9 pm
January-June October-December
Saturday Nights 7 to 9 pm
July-September

COMING EVENTS

Normanby Night at the Slots

Hanover Slots
Wednesday, February 15
Finger Food & Tokens
\$10 (Limited Tickets Available)
Ph: 665-7850

Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament

Normanby Arena Complex
Saturday at 7:30pm
February 25

17th Annual Craft Hobby Garden Show

Neustadt Arena
May 6, 10:00 to 4:30pm
Contact: Audrey Filsinger 799-5342

Country 93 Video Dance

Durham Community Centre
Saturday, May 13
Ph: 369-5771 for Tickets

Annual Strawberry Supper

Neustadt Community Hall
June 25, 4:30 to 7 pm
Contact: Audrey Filsinger 799-5342

Want To See How Council Meetings Operate?

All meetings are open to the public. All are welcome to join Council during a meeting to view the proceedings. See how By-laws are created and policies are developed.



2006 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Monday, January 16, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Monday, February 6, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, February 23, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 6, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Monday, March 20, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 3, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Monday, April 17, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 1, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Monday, May 15, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 5, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Monday, June 19, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, July 3, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Monday, July 17, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 9, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Monday, August 21, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 6, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Monday, September 25, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 11, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Monday, October 23, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, November 6, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Monday, November 20, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, December 1, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Monday, December 18, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

*Closed sessions of morning Council meetings commence 9:00 a.m.
Closed sessions of evening Council meetings commence 6:00 p.m.*

Lamlash & Glenelg Halls

The Council of West Grey has established committees to ensure that the local community halls continue to reflect the needs of the local communities. To this end, the Council passed by-laws to establish the Lamlash and Glenelg Hall Committees, with the necessary Terms of Reference. The mandate of these committees is to promote the use of the halls, and ensure a consistent and ongoing operation of the halls. Lamlash Hall will continue to be administered through the West Grey Municipal Office. Glenelg Hall will be administered directly through the Glenelg Hall Committee.

For Lamlash Hall Bookings

Contact: Municipal Office 369-2200

For Glenelg Hall Bookings

Contact: Franklin Jackson 369-5283
Gloria Morris 369-3769
Joanne Timmins 369-5288

Payments Made Easier for You

Electronic Bill Payments

Both taxes and water can be paid using Telephone or Online Banking through most financial institutions. Contact your local bank branch to enroll in Telephone or Online Banking and add West Grey Taxes or West Grey Water to your list.

Pre-Authorized Payment Plan

Did you know that you can have your taxes withdrawn automatically from your bank account on a monthly basis? There is no extra charge for this convenient payment plan. Pre-Authorized Payment Plans are also available for the quarterly tax installments and water billings. Application forms are available at the municipal office or www.westgrey.com/forms.cfm

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
Mailing Address: 402813 Grey Rd 4, RR 2
Durham, ON N0G 1R0

Canine Control Officers

Richard Parker 364-3601
Normanby, Neustadt, Bentinck & Glenelg

Gary Ransome 369-2617
Durham

