



# THE NATURAL CHOICE

## WINTER 2007 NEWSLETTER

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**Why not place this newsletter in your phone book or on your bulletin board for future quick reference?**

#### Quote of the Day:

*"There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction."*

*Winston Churchill*

### West Grey Trivia

- ◆ Total Value of Building Permit projects - \$16,751,250
- ◆ Public Skating Hours in Durham in 2005 - 200 hours
- ◆ Total Municipal Operating Costs-\$8,386,692
- ◆ Parks and Recreation Costs per person -\$47.91

**Municipal Performance Measurements must be reported annually. Check out our website at [westgrey.com](http://westgrey.com) for more of these facts.**

### The Mayor's Message

As a new year begins to unfold, so do the challenges and opportunities facing the newly elected Council for West Grey. The start of this four year term brings with it a major change in our Council Chambers, with four new Council members and five returning members. We will strive to quickly come together as a group and each and every member of Council looks forward to tackling the ongoing issues within the Municipality, as well as planning for future programs and policy implementation.

*"Council will be challenged to foster new ideas and concepts tempered with experience...."  
...Mayor Eccles*

I have been given the honour of representing the ratepayers of West Grey as your Mayor. I will do my utmost to fulfill the role successfully and motivate the residents of West Grey to continue to take great pride in our Municipality. Having been sworn into office for approximately two months now, my opinion of the high level of competency of our staff and the dedication of the many volunteers has been reinforced. Throughout this term of Council, I will endeavor to provide the leadership necessary for West Grey to continue to grow and prosper.

The 2006 year saw some major construction completed in the Municipality by both the private and the public sectors, which demonstrates that this is the area that people want to invest and live in. West Grey will continue to work towards enhancing the public infrastructure to support both the residential growth and the many businesses in the area.

The greatest challenge each year for Council is undoubtedly setting the budget. As the provincial shift of responsibilities becomes more widely understood, the budget impact at the property tax level is under greater pressure. Council will be challenged to foster new ideas and concepts, tempered with experience, and deliver an acceptable financial plan to get the job done. Our focus will be to push for the proper tools and funding enabling us to carry the message forward that West Grey is the greatest place to live, work and play.

*...Mayor Kevin Eccles*

### The Municipality of West Grey Council 2006-2010



**Front Row:** Councillor Carol Lawrence, Mayor Kevin Eccles, Councillor Bev Cutting  
**Back Row:** Councillor John S. Black, Councillor Bev Plume, Deputy Mayor Dan Sullivan, Councillor John A. Bell, Councillor David Mollison, Councillor Don Marshall



**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 except for Garafraxa Street in the Town of Durham between George and Douglas Street where no person shall park between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 7:00 am from November 15<sup>th</sup> of any year to April 15<sup>th</sup> of the following year.

## The Natural Choice

**A**s Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk, I would like to emphasize that West Grey is a wonderful place to live in. I have seen first hand how people take pride in their farms, residences and businesses. People are friendly and willing to help others, when needed. That alone is a great foundation for a community, but it goes further... West Grey has beautiful landscapes, recreational activities for all four seasons, as well as community events and quaint shopping areas.

West Grey is definitely "The Natural Choice" and I am proud to be a part of it. I am looking forward to an exciting year, filled with spirit and will continue to address the needs of our community.

.....Christine Shewchuk  
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

## WEST GREY LIBRARY

**Durham Branch**—240 Garafraxa St.N,  
Tuesday to Friday 11:00 am – 8:00 pm  
Saturday 12:00 - 4:00 pm  
519-369-2107

**Elmwood Branch** – 25 Main St.  
Tuesday and Friday 2:00 – 8:00 pm  
519-363-3321

**Neustadt Branch** – 511 Mill St.  
Thursday 2:00 – 8:00 pm  
Saturday 11:00 am – 3:00 pm  
519-799-5830

**Normanby Branch**- Ayton  
Tuesday and Friday 3:30 – 8:00 pm  
519-665-7784

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### How do I join the library?

Just come in to any branch. We require your home address, a form of ID and we will be happy to fill out a registration card for you. Membership is free to residents of West Grey. Reciprocal borrowing is available between the Bruce County and West Grey Library Systems.

#### How old do I have to be to join?

Anyone can join. For children, we need parental or guardian permission. Children who can print their own name are eligible to have a library card if their parent or guardian so wishes.

#### How many items can I borrow?

There is no limit on how many items you can borrow, except for "Best Sellers". Remember not to keep them past the return date though!

#### How long can I keep library materials?

Videos/DVDs            2 days at the Durham Branch  
                                  1 week at Elmwood, Neustadt & Normanby.

All other items - up to 3 weeks.

#### Can I extend the loan (renew)?

Yes, you may telephone us, or bring the items in for an extension as long as no one else has put a reserve on the item.

#### What if I'm late?

We charge fines of 25 cents per day for each item you keep beyond the due date.

Video fines are \$1 per day after the due date.

You can return items after hours through the book drops available at all the branches.

#### Who can use the Internet?

Anyone aged 13 or over can use the Internet, once they have signed our User Agreement form. Children (12 years of age or under) need a parent to sign our Parent/Guardian Permission Form the first time they come in. Parents are encouraged to supervise and participate in their children's Internet use.

**The West Grey Library Catalogue is now on our website at [www.westgreylibraries.com](http://www.westgreylibraries.com).**

**Look up items from your home computer for availability.**



## You Do Have Choices

### Bill Payment Options

**W**est Grey offers several ways to make your bill payments, including:

1. At the Municipal Office during office hours;
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;
6. Pre-Authorized Payments.

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.

## Payments Made Easier for You

### Electronic Bill Payments

**B**oth tax and water bills 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 Water to your list. Online payments require all 19 digits of the roll number.

### Pre-Authorized Payment Plan

**D**id you know that you can have your taxes withdrawn automatically from your bank account on a monthly basis? This is a free service to you 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](http://www.westgrey.com/forms.cfm)

## Commercial or Industrial Vacant Unit Rebates

**T**he deadline for submitting a Vacant Unit Rebate Application for the 2006 taxation year is February 28, 2007. 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 from the municipal office or [www.westgrey.com/forms/cfm](http://www.westgrey.com/forms/cfm)

## A Road By Any Other Name...

Would you like to honour one of your loved ones through a roadside recognition?

The Municipality has an Adopt a Highway program that can accomplish this for you. In return for cleaning the roadside once or twice a year, a sign will be erected to reflect the family name or organization.



For more information, contact our Public Works Department. Forms can also be downloaded from our website at <http://www.westgrey.com/forms.cfm>

## A Smokeless Ontario

Ontario "No Smoking" signs are available at the municipal office free of charge. For more information regarding this legislation, you may phone 1-866-396-1760 or visit the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion website at [www.mhp.gov.on.ca](http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca).

## 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.

**Thank You  
to all of our  
dedicated  
Volunteers!**

## 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.

## Want To See How Council Meetings Operate?

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



## 2007 Council Meeting Dates

Monday, January 8, 2007, 10:00 a.m.  
Monday, February 5, 2007, 10:00 a.m.  
Monday, March 5, 2007, 10:00 a.m.  
Monday, April 2, 2007, 10:00 a.m.  
Monday, May 7, 2007, 10:00 a.m.  
Monday, June 4, 2007, 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, July 4, 2007, 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, August 8, 2007, 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, September 5, 2007, 10:00 a.m.  
Monday, October 1, 2007, 10:00 a.m.  
Monday, November 5, 2007, 10:00 a.m.  
Monday, December 3, 2007, 10:00 a.m.

Monday, January 22, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, February 19, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, March 19, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, April 16, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, May 24, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, June 18, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, July 16, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, August 23, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, September 17, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, October 15, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, November 19, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, December 17, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

*Council Closed sessions commence:*

*Mornings 9:00 a.m./Evenings 6:00 p.m.*

## West Grey Council

### Name

Mayor Kevin Eccles  
Deputy Mayor Dan Sullivan  
Councillor John A. Bell  
Councillor John S. Black  
Councillor Bev Cutting  
Councillor Carol Lawrence  
Councillor Don Marshall  
Councillor David Mollison  
Councillor Bev Plume

### Phone

519-799-5476  
519-369-5048  
519-369-6894  
519-986-2785  
519-986-4635  
519-369-3816  
519-369-7221  
519-369-5337  
519-323-2967

### Email

linecco@wightman.ca  
dfsull@persona.ca  
john.bell@agricorp.com  
  
info@westgrey.com  
  
davidmollison@yahoo.com



## Your Dog's Ticket Home

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, 2007

1<sup>st</sup> Dog - \$15      2<sup>nd</sup> Dog - \$25  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dog - \$35      4<sup>th</sup> Dog & Each  
Additional Dog - \$45

For example, payment owing for three dogs paid prior to May 30 is \$75. After May 30, 2007-Add \$5 per dog. Dog owners failing to pay prior to May 30, 2007, are also subject to fines under the Provincial Offences Act. There may be visits to dog owners not paid in 2007, but are listed as having dogs in 2006. Please call the municipal office if you paid dog tags in 2006, but no longer own a dog.

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

## Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?

If you have lost your dog, you can contact the canine control officers to help you.

**Richard Parker** 519-364-3601

For areas of: Normanby, Neustadt  
Glenelg & Bentinck

**Gary Ransome** 519-369-2617

For Durham area

You may also contact the veterinarians in the area, as someone may have found your dog and dropped it off there.

A record is kept of dog owners and their dogs' tag numbers, so if someone finds your dog wearing his tag number, then that person can make a quick call to the canine control officer or to the municipal office and give your dog his **return ticket home**.

## 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.

# GET ACTIVE IN WEST GREY!

## WEST GREY GOES SKATING!

### Normanby Arena Complex-Ayton

Ph: 519-665-7850

#### Public Skating

Admission \$1.00  
Saturday Evenings 7:00 to 8:30 pm

#### March Break Skating

Admission \$1.00  
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm  
March 13, 15

**Ice bookings** available until April 1, 2007  
Summer icetimes resumes July 22, 2007



### Neustadt Arena

Ph: 519-799-5356

#### Roller Skating

Every Friday (Year Round) 7 to 9 pm  
Saturdays (October to June) 7 to 9 pm

### Durham & District Community Centre

Ph: 519-369-5771

#### Skating (All Starting in October)

**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

Sundays 1:00 pm to 1:50 pm  
February 11, 25 March 4, 11, 18, 25

#### March Break Skating-Free Admission

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm  
March 12, 14, 16

#### Non-Prime Ice time available weekdays

9:00am to 12:00 pm

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

#### Shinny Hockey-\$5 per person

Minimum of 8 people

**Ice bookings** available until May 5, 2007

Have you thought of booking icetime or the arena floor for a birthday party?

## MAKE A SPLASH IN WEST GREY!

### Swimming Lessons

Sessions: July 2 to 13  
August 7 to 20  
Level 1-4 Level 5-10



Registration will be in June.  
Watch for ads in your local paper.

### Wading Pool Schedule

Durham  
Opening July 2, 2007  
Daily 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Tuesday and Thursday Evenings  
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm  
Closed Saturdays

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

## LETS PLAY BALL!

Ball Diamond bookings available starting in May, 2007.

Durham Ball Park 519-369-5771  
Ayton Ball Park 519-665-7850  
Neustadt Ball Park 519-665-7850



## 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-Capacity 1200

Contact: Laverne Johnstone 519-799-5356

#### Durham Arena-Capacity 1200

Contact: Randy Murray 519-369-5771

#### Ayton Arena-Capacity 1200

Contact: Tom Culliton 519-665-7850

## COMING EVENTS

### Craft, Hobby & Garden Show

Neustadt Arena, 18th Annual  
May 5, 2007 10:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Contact: Audrey Filsinger 519-799-5342

### Country 93 Video Dance

Durham Arena  
May 12, 2007  
Durham Recreation & Durham Firefighters  
Contact: Randy Murray at 519-369-5771

### Plant Sale

Glenelg Community Hall  
May 12, 2007 10:00 am to 2:00pm  
Donations of plants welcomed  
Contact: Gloria Morris 519-369-3769

### Strawberry Supper

Neustadt Community Hall  
June 24, 2007 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm  
Contact: Audrey Filsinger 519-799-5342

### Family Ball Tournament

22nd Annual Slo-Pitch, Ayton Ball Park  
July 27, 28, 29  
Contact: Tom Culliton 519-665-7850

### Funfest Ball Tournament

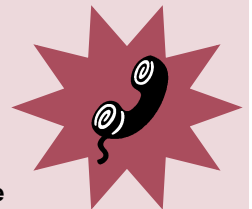
Neustadt Ball Park, 22nd Annual  
August 17, 18, 19  
Contact: Audrey Filsinger 519-799-5342

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

## Did You Know?

Our website [www.westgrey.com](http://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](mailto:info@westgrey.com)

### Mailing Address:

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

### Canine Control Officers

Richard Parker 519-364-3601  
Normanby, Neustadt, Bentinck, Glenelg  
Gary Ransome 519-369-2617  
Durham