



THE NATURAL CHOICE

JULY 2006

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2005 Financial Statement

Recycling Schedule Change



Normanby, Neustadt and Bentinck recycling pickup has changed to the same day as the Garbage pickup. The updated schedule can be downloaded from our website at westgrey.com.

Volunteers Needed

For the **West Grey Councillors' Compensation Advisory Committee**
 Purpose: To provide input on Council Remuneration
 Contact: Mark Turner at the Municipal Office by August 15, 2006

2005 West Grey Trivia

- ◆ Building Permits issued for Residential Units - 77
- ◆ Policing costs - \$154.57 per person
- ◆ Water usage in Neustadt & Durham - 542 megalitres
- ◆ Fire Department responses into West Grey - 216

Check out our website at westgrey.com for more 2005 facts under Municipal Performance Measurements.

The Mayor's Message

As I write this on the first day of summer, the longest day of the year, I reflect back on the past seasons. The saying is "The more things change, the more they stay the same". This has certainly proven true as Council and staff have once again worked very hard on this year's budget. Each year we think it's the toughest budget yet and we always hope that next year will be easier, but it never is.

"The more things change, the more they stay the same"
 ...Mayor Becker

For a property that experienced an average assessment increase of 13.5%, the total tax increase this year with County, Education and Local levies is just under 3% and that is approximately inflation. However with this being a reassessment year the impact to each individual taxpayer will vary depending on your property assessment value change. The Provincial Government has announced the deferral of annual reassessment until 2008.

This year Council was able to purchase 33 acres of land to be used for a business park. Council and staff are excited about the potential for future development of this land and promoting West Grey as open for business.

The West Grey Zoning By-law which consolidates all former zoning by-laws was recently passed. It simplifies many of the zoning approaches used in the past, and allows for a wider range of permitted uses within the zones. You can view the entire By-law at the Municipal Office, or on our website at westgrey.com.

In February of this year, Council hosted an Appreciation Day for volunteers and staff. The countless hours of the many volunteers are vital to our community. We cannot thank them enough for their hard work and dedication. Council also took the opportunity at this event to present Employee Service Awards. The commitment of all of our employees to the Municipality is evident as 50 employees with over 10 years of service received various awards. Council is very proud of their dedication.

In closing, I wish everyone a safe and happy summer and hope that you enjoy the summer sunshine in West Grey as we have a great place to live, work and play.

...Mayor Delton Becker

Understanding Your Tax Bill

Included with your tax bill is a green printed form entitled "Explanation of Tax Changes". This sheet explains the breakdown of the four areas where the taxes may have changed. It specifically lists the amount of the tax change that is due to the Local Municipal Levy (West Grey), the Upper Tier Levy (Grey County), the Education Levy, as well as the portion of the tax change attributable to the Reassessment of the property.

The assessment values for all properties are completed by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. For the 2006 Taxation Year the Current Value Assessment (CVA) represents the price a property might reasonably be expected to sell for, in its current condition, on the open market as at January 1, 2005.

If you do not agree with the assessed value of your property a Request for Reconsideration can be filed with MPAC up to December 31, 2006.

These forms along with further information on assessments are available online at www.mpac.ca.

Notice of Public Meeting

The West Grey Police Services Board invites members of the Municipality to attend a public meeting being held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Saturday, July 29, 2006 at 10:00 am. This meeting is intended to answer questions with respect to costs associated with the **Municipal Alarm By-Law and Criminal Record Checks**.

Proposed Water & Sewer Rate Change

Public meeting for Durham residents August 29, 2006 at 7:00 pm
Durham Community Centre
 The proposed Durham Sewage Rates would increase from 190% to 230% of the water rates.

Public meeting for Neustadt residents August 30, 2006 at 7:00 pm
Neustadt Community Hall
 The proposed Neustadt sewage rates would increase from \$250/yr to \$350/yr. For Neustadt water users, a system maintenance charge of \$10 per month would be incorporated into the water bill.

Working Smoke Alarms: It's The Law

In an effort to reduce the number of preventable fire related injuries and deaths, all dwellings in Ontario are required by law 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, and semi-detached dwellings, townhouses, and seasonal residences, whether owner-occupied or rented.

*Kids Don't Hear Smoke...
Kids Hear Smoke Detectors*

There are still free smoke detectors available at the West Grey Fire Services office. For information about smoke alarm requirements, installation and maintenance, contact the West Grey Fire Services at 519-369-2505.



Obey the Crossing Guard

School crossing guards ensure the safety of our children as they travel busy streets. Please help them do their job by obeying stop signals.

Remember, it is an offence under Section 176 of the Highway Traffic Act if you do not stop upon the direction of a school crossing guard and you can be fined anywhere from \$150-\$500.

Hazardous Waste Program

Owen Sound

August 12th, September 9th, October 14th

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

Hanover

September 30, 2006

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Hanover Board of Works Yard
70 14th Avenue (Industrial Park)

Lists of HHW materials accepted are available at the West Grey Municipal office or on our website at westgrey.com. This agreement does not include Industrial, Commercial, Institutional or Farm Hazardous Waste.

2005 Diversion Rate through recycling increased to 52% from 43% in 2004

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.

Do You Need a Burn Permit?

West Grey Fire Chief, Phil Schwartz would like to remind all West Grey residents that burn permits are required for all burns in **urban** areas of West Grey.

Rural residents do not require a burn permit but must notify Hanover Dispatch at 519-364-2411 giving the location of the burn, two hours before the burn starts and again when the fire is out.

- All controlled burns must be supervised at all times, burning clean wood only.
- There must be a means of extinguishing the fire.
- Always check weather and wind conditions before starting.

Residents are reminded that they could be billed for the cost of putting out the fire should the Fire Service be dispatched.

For the complete Burning By-law # 20-2004, check out our website at www.westgrey.com.

Starting A Building Project?

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. Renovation Permits and Change of Use Permits may be required for various projects. Additionally, all projects must conform to zoning regulations.

What to Include with a Building Application

A building permit application must include a dimensioned site plan, and 2 complete sets of plans and any other drawings necessary to clearly indicate how the proposed building will meet the Ontario Building Code requirements. Incomplete applications cannot be accepted. New home construction on a vacant lot will require appropriate zoning, approved septic system application (if no municipal service) and may require an entrance permit and civic address if they do not already exist.

You may obtain the necessary applications from the Municipal Office or by visiting our website at www.westgrey.com.

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.

Election Workers Needed

Municipal election workers (D.R.O.'s, Poll Clerks, etc.), are needed for Voting Day on November 13, 2006, and for Advance Voting Days on October 28, 2006 and November 4, 2006. All municipal elections workers will also be required to attend an evening training session - date to be determined.

Kindly submit a letter of interest noting previous election experience to:

Municipality of West Grey

Attn: Mark Turner

RR 2, Durham, ON N0G 1R0

mturner@westgrey.com

Fx: 519-369-5962

If selected, you will be contacted in early October.

Please watch for municipal election news updates in local newspapers and on our website at www.westgrey.com.

In Memory Of...

Did you know that the few active cemeteries still operating in West Grey are not supported by the tax levy but are self sustaining? Interest rates have fallen considerably on perpetual care investments over the years. Funeral homes accept in-memoriam donations during visitations and some individuals have very generously left bequests from their estates. If you are looking for a way to honour the memory of a loved one, or wish to make a donation, contact the directors of your local cemetery or the West Grey office. Tax receipts will be issued for all monies received.

Payments Made Easier for You

Electronic Bill Payments

Both 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 West Grey Water to your list. Online payments require all 19 digits of your roll number.

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

MUNICIPAL ELECTION NEWS

Notwithstanding the possibility at this time that all candidates for municipal and school board elections may be acclaimed, the following information will apply if municipal and school board elections are required for the Municipality of West Grey:

ADVANCE VOTING DAY

Saturday, October 28, 2006

Saturday, November 4, 2006

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

West Grey Municipal Office

402813 Grey Rd 4



**Mark Your X
on Voting Day**

REGULAR VOTING DAY * Monday, November 13, 2006, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm

Bentinck Roads Shed-421609 Con 6 NDR

For qualified electors in Polls 1 to 4 in the former Township of Bentinck

Lamlash Hall-421610 Con 6 NDR

For qualified electors in Polls 5 to 8 in the former Township of Bentinck

Durham & District Community Centre

451 Saddler Street West

For qualified electors in the former Town of Durham

Neustadt Community Hall-189 Enoch St

For qualified electors in the former Village of Neustadt

Glenelg Community Centre

493910 Baptist Church Rd

For qualified electors in the former Township of Glenelg

Ayton-Normanby Arena Complex

759 Arthur St

For qualified electors in the former Township of Normanby

***Rockwood Terrace**

Monday, November 13, 2006

11:00 am to 5:00 pm

For qualified electors in the former Town of Durham residing at Rockwood Terrace

Can't Vote In Person?

Appoint A Proxy

If you are unable to attend a voting place on any of the dates set for voting, you may **appoint someone to act as your proxy**. This allows you to appoint another eligible elector to attend the voting place and cast your vote on your behalf. Proxies can only be appointed commencing October 3, 2006, unless supplementary nominations are required (October 6, 2006).

In order to appoint a proxy you must obtain an appointment form at the office of the Clerk. Once you fill it out, the person voting on your behalf must attend the Clerk's Office with the signed form so that it may be certified.

Please contact the Clerk's Office to obtain detailed information regarding the appointment of a proxy.

Your Dollars At Work

Again this year Department Heads, Committees and the Finance Committee spent numerous hours of preparation on the budget. The Finance Committee worked diligently to draw down the increase without cutting services to the municipality.

The municipal council approved the 2006 Budget Estimates representing a 4.83% increase to the general levy.

A revenue neutral, notional tax rate was calculated for the previous year in order to make comparisons to the current year. This enabled us to identify the extent of the tax rate increase for the current year.

The local portion of the municipal tax for budget year 2006 per \$113,465 of Residential assessed value totals \$654.81. The local municipal tax rate for 2006 increased over the notional rate by

4.83% and on 113,465 of residential assessment this represents an additional cost of \$30.14 per year. The total dollar increase based on the average total assessment change is 2.97% or \$42.63.

West Grey has an Operation and Maintenance budget in the amount of \$11,013,582, which supports a Capital Budget in the amount of \$3,463,804.

Budget Highlights

\$ Election expenses have been included due to Municipal Elections in the fall.

\$ A consultant was hired in 2006 to provide a Human Resources Study. The results of this study became effective January 1, 2006. With the implementation of this study the overall wages for the municipality increased by 9.12% when compared to 2005. The police were not included in the study.

\$ Police budget has increased 3.08%, from \$1,947,500 to \$2,007,573. This includes the cost of two vehicles.

\$ SVCA and flood control include the cost of frazil ice removal and cleanup in Durham.

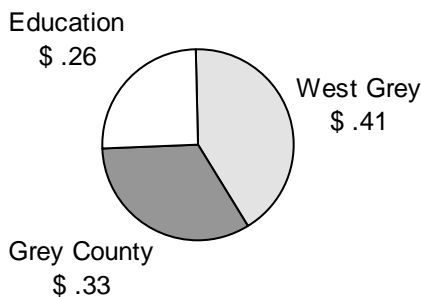
\$ Public Works has an operations and maintenance budget of \$3,000,147. The capital budget is \$1,882,582. The provision of the Gas Tax grant and the Move Ontario grant has allowed for an increase to the roads capital budget.

\$ Landfill has budgeted for the implementation of a weigh scale.

\$ Durham Arena budgeted for the purchase of an Olympia resurfacer.

\$ The municipality through the Economic Development Committee purchased a business park for future development.

2006 Apportionment Per Dollar of Taxation



Your Loonie goes a long way. For every \$1 of taxation received, West Grey keeps only \$.41. The other \$.59 is paid to the School Boards and the County of Grey.



Want to Know How Your Loonie Is Spent?

What services do I get for my Loonie? Where is my tax dollar going? Those are some of the questions often asked.

West Grey Operating Expenditures Per Dollar

Council & Admin.	\$.12
Fire	\$.07
Police	\$.23
Other Protection	\$.05
Roads/Transit	\$.39
Health/Safety	\$.01
Recreation	\$.07
Library	\$.04
Planning/Development	\$.02

MAKE A SPLASH!

Swimming Lessons

2nd Session: August 8th to 21st

Level 1-4 \$45

Level 5-10 \$50

Family of 3 or more \$125

You may 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

Daily 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Tuesday and Thursday 6:30 to 8:00 pm



Closed Saturdays

WEST GREY LIBRARY

Library Challenge!

Take the West Grey Library Challenge and discover your local library. Each visit during the summer, your name will be entered in a monthly draw for a new book or DVD.

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

Children's Summer Program

2006 Theme -QUEST FOR HEROES!

Children will be searching for heroes all summer long through books and activities at your local library branch.

Each child will receive a poster, an activity book and stickers.

Weekly draws for books and toys.

Weekly Sessions

July and August

Elmwood

Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:00 pm for ages 6-12

Durham

Thursdays 1:00 - 2:00 pm for ages 7-12

Thursdays 2:30 - 3:30 pm for ages 3-6

Normanby

Fridays 3:30-4:30 pm for ages 6-12



LETS GO SKATING!

Durham & District Community Centre

Skating (All Starting in October)

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

Sundays 1 pm to 2 pm



Normanby Arena Complex-Ayton

Public Skating

Beginning September 16, 2006

Admission \$1.00

Saturday Evenings 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Neustadt Arena

Roller Skating

Every Friday (Year Round) 7 to 9 pm

Saturdays (October to June) 7 to 9 pm

LOOKING FOR A SPACE TO RENT FOR AN EVENT?

Lamlash Hall

Durham Town Hall

Contact: Municipal Office 519-369-2200

Durham Community Centre

Contact: Randy Murray 519-369-5771

Ayton Centennial Hall

Normanby Arena Complex

Contact: Tom Culliton 519-665-7850

Neustadt Community Hall

Contact: Lisa Kaufman 519-799-5719

Glenelg Hall

Contact: Franklin Jackson 519-369-5823

Contact: Gloria Morris 519-369-3769

Contact: Joanne Timmins 519-369-5288

Neustadt Arena

Contact: Laverne Johnston 519-799-5356

Durham Arena

Contact: Randy Murray 519-369-5771

Ayton Arena

Contact: Tom Culliton 519-665-7850

COMING EVENTS

Family Ball Tournament

21st Annual Slo-Pitch, Ayton Ball Diamond

July 28, 29, 30

Contact Tom Culliton at 519-665-7850

Funfest Ball Tournament

Neustadt Ball Park, 22nd Annual

August 18, 19, 20

Contact: Audrey Filsinger 519-799-5342

Minor Hockey Registration

Normanby Arena Complex

September 8, 2006 7:00 to 9:00 pm

September 9, 2006 10:00 am to Noon

Contact: Tom Culliton 519-665-7850

Normanby Recreation Golf Tournament

Buck's Crossing & Walkerton Golf & Country Club

September 23, 2006

Prize Table & Dinner-Arena Complex

Contact: Marg Rapp 519-665-2137

Fall Craft Show

Neustadt Arena

Saturday, November 4, 2006 at 9:00 am

Contact: Audrey Filsinger 519-799-5342

Annual Santa Claus Parades

Neustadt

Saturday, December 9, 2006 at 7:00 pm

Contact: Audrey Filsinger 519-799-5342

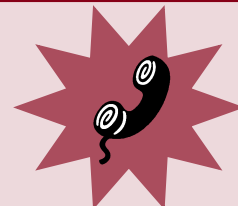
Durham

Saturday, December 2, 2006 at Noon

Contact: Chad Pegelo 519-369-2013

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 519-364-3601

Normanby, Neustadt, Bentinck, Glenelg

Gary Ransome 519-369-2617

Durham