

THE CORPORATION OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF
CENTRE HASTINGS



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We would like to wish everyone health and happiness for 2010.

It has been brought to our attention that even though our Meetings are open to the Public, the media is present, we hold numerous Public Meetings, and put as much information as possible on our website, we could still improve our communications with Taxpayers, so Council has decided to try a direct mail-out twice per year to provide you with some facts about projects and programs.

For 2009, when you balance out service delivery and surcharges (ie. We do not have Garbage Bag Tags) on a \$150,000 assessment, there would be approximately \$15.00 per year difference in property taxes between Stirling-Rawdon, Marmora-Lake, Tweed and Centre Hastings. Office Employees in those other Municipalities range from 5 to 7. We have 4 Full-time (1 on sick leave) and 2 under contract. We also do our own Water & Sewer Billings. The outside workers range from 7 to 10 with Centre Hastings at 9. We also pick up our own garbage, read our own water meters, and do our own water sample taking for the Moira and Ivanhoe Halls.

The 2008 statement shows \$4,711,011.00 reserves (over 5 million 2009 unaudited). Past Council's set up a formula to loan ourselves money from reserves for approved projects and pay ourselves back over time so these monies are returned to reserves for future projects. This Council continues with this process.

The following explanations should show that this Council and our staff are not only open and accountable, but are very capable of providing sound, financially responsible long range leadership for the benefit of all Citizens of Centre Hastings.

Roads & Bridges

Over the last number of years Councils have had a very pro-active Roads Program. We meet or exceed Provincial Standards for maintenance. This Council would like to accelerate the Hard Top Program however, budget constraints and with the Federal and Provincial Governments announcing 2/3 funding for major Projects, your Council made decisions to proceed with hot mix paving projects that will most benefit the Community for the next 30 plus years. Now that this is finished, we hope to speed up our Hard Top Program in 2010 or 2011 subject to budget priorities.

Boat Launch Road was paved, Sills Road East received approximately 2.2 km of hard topping and repairs were done to Lahey and Carson Roads. 2009 was the 3rd year of our \$100,000 per year major gravel program. Approximately \$100,000 was spent on Urban Paving and sidewalk repairs. These projects were paid from operating funds in the 2009 budget.

McCumber Road & Bridge

Bridges must be inspected regularly by qualified engineers. This bridge and a box culvert on Ray Road West must be replaced. McCumber Bridge rated the highest and the most costly. Rawdon Creek is a cold water Creek, and with that designation comes a lot more rules and regulations including extending McCumber Road so residents in that area had access to their homes. Thanks to the support of our MPP Leona Dombrowsky. We were successful in receiving 100% Provincial Funding for this project.

New Medical Centre

The Medical Centre Board is a duly registered, non-profit organization under the laws of the Province of Ontario. It has representatives from Tudor & Cashel Township, Madoc Township, Centre Hastings, the Kiwanis Club, Royal Canadian Legion Br. 363, a Ministerial representative, and members from the general public. The Family Health Team Corporation is totally separate from the Medical Centre Board.

The Medical Centre Board (the Board) has regular meetings which are open to the public. Your Council gets regular reports and updates. The Board decided it needed a larger, modern facility to improve the overall health care of our residents, and to attract and retain qualified health care practitioners. They worked in conjunction & harmony with the Family Health Team and the County of Hastings, and thanks to their immensely successful Physician Recruitment Program for 2010, we will have 4 Doctors & the Family Health Team Members consisting of Nurses, a Dietician, Foot Doctor, Social Worker and Support Staff working out of the new facility. The estimated cost of the main floor was 1.1 million. The Fundraising Committee raised this money with a portion coming in the form of loans of \$300,000 from the Federal Government and \$200,000 from the Provincial Government. It is known that the annual lease monies from the Family Health Team from the main floor will cover the repayment of these loans. Once the old Medical Centre Building is sold, these funds will be used to pay down the principal and to accelerate the pay out of these loans.

The Annual Operating Budget for the main floor of the Medical Centre is shared among the 3 Municipalities of Tudor-Cashel (5%), Madoc Township (33%), and Centre Hastings (62%) based on the population percentage of each area as has been done for over 35 years with the old centre. Centre Hastings was asked by the Board to be the signature for the above loans. The Municipality of Centre Hastings offered to pay the cost to put in a basement and upper storey to address the forecasted potential expansion of Health Programs as the population of the 3 Municipalities continues to grow. Centre Hastings agreed to take on this role with the full understanding all revenues from the basement and upper floor would flow to Centre Hastings to address our construction costs. This undertaking not only met the future expansion needs, but also provided rental space for complimentary Health needs for the area in the form of Dentists, Optometrists, Opticians, and Chiropractors. At the same time this decision generated significant savings in being able to put all mechanical equipment in the basement and eliminate the use of a flat roof and its extra load bearing costs.

This Council wishes to extend our heart felt thanks to the Board, their Building & Fundraising Committees, the Doctors, Nurses, Support Staff and all the Volunteers who worked so very, very hard to provide our 3 Communities with such needed facilities for the next 50 years. What a terrific asset you have provided our citizens, not only for health care, but also for economic stimulus.

Centre Hastings Park

On or about 2005 the previous Council supported the efforts of many local volunteers to build a world class Family Park. And they did! After 5 years of fundraising, sweat, tears, and great support from many areas, including MP Daryl Kramp & MPP Leona Dombrowsky, the Park is now complete. A real Family Park and what a tremendous asset you have provided our citizens, not only from the recreational, cultural and artistic aspect but also the tremendous economic stimulus it has provided. Include all the donated labour, material, equipment, fundraising and grants and the Park would cost approximately 3 ½ million dollars. The unfinanced balance at the end of 2009 is approximately \$980,000 and will be paid back to reserves over a period of time from the interest off the hydro money. Absolutely no direct capital cost to the Taxpayer. Thirteen people were employed in the Park for the summer. The Operational Expenditures for 2009 were \$64,885.35 less revenues of \$54,382.59 for a net operating cost of \$10,472.76. It is the Committee and Councils projection that this Park can operate in the future at a breakeven point or very low cost to the taxpayer.

Your Council looks forward to 2010 secure in the fact the Capital Projects completed in 2009 and those to be funded in 2010 will not impact your taxes. Should there be any increase in taxes, it will be at the rate of inflation based on Stats Canada and would be for operational purposes only.