



The Corporation of the Municipality of
Central Elgin

Central Elgin Council Adopts 2010 Budget Tax Rate Decreases 2.06%; Impact will vary Due to Reassessment

News Release: April 27, 2009 – For Immediate Release

Central Elgin Council approved the Municipality's 2010 Budget at its April 26th meeting. The budget includes funding for a number of significant capital projects while addressing a number of community related concerns. The budget will result in a tax rate decrease of 2.06%. The total Central Elgin property tax levy (capital and operating) increases 3.51% or \$343,950 over 2009.

Central Elgin property taxes on a home assessed at \$200,000 will decrease \$34.56 in 2010 in comparison to 2009. However, actual changes in property taxes for individual properties will vary due to re-assessment.

Mayor Tom Marks stated, "It was a tough budget process and the challenge for Council was to find a sustainable way to balance economic realities and new capital projects while maintaining existing infrastructure and services." The budget absorbs a 20% decrease in the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund grant (loss of \$229,200 in revenue) and a \$92,040 increase in policing costs.

The 2010 budget includes funding for:

- Renovations to *Port Stanley Arena and Community Centre* – New ice slab, new elevator, lobby renovations and new flooring for the community hall
- Improvements to *Belmont Arena* – additional ice surface lighting, flooring in the lobby area and a dehumidifier
- New trail and multi-purpose court plus landscaping in *Little Creek Park*
- Landscaping improvements in *Glover Park* in partnership with the Port Stanley BIA
- Additional *street lighting* in Eastwood Subdivision
- *Pleasant Valley Line* reconstruction (1st phase)
- *Brouwers Line* Reconstruction (1st phase)
- *Elmwood Ave, Bailey Ave, Elm Street and Paul Street* road and sidewalk reconstruction
- *Harding Smith Line* Environmental Assessment due to lakeshore erosion
- Engineering for future reconstruction of *Mapleton Line* between Highbury Avenue and Yarmouth Centre Road
- New tar and chip surface treatment on *Mapleton Line* between Yarmouth Centre Road and Belmont Road)
- Tar and chip surface treatment on 7.5 kilometres of road

The Municipality of Central Elgin was successful in obtaining infrastructure and economic stimulus funding from the federal and provincial government to complete a number of these construction projects. The portion of the property tax levy funding capital expenditures remains at the same amount as 2009.

Approximately half of property taxes collected in Central Elgin are retained by the Municipality of Central Elgin. The other half of property taxes funds education and County of Elgin services such as social services, libraries, homes for the aged and county roads. Education property tax rates are set by the provincial government. Elgin County Council establishes the County property tax rates.

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