



ANNUAL REPORT: TAXPAYERS

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Council and staff are pleased to release the 3rd edition of our Annual Report to Taxpayers. We continually strive to find new ways of communicating with residents and local businesses and we have had a very positive response to this publication. We hope that it enables you to better understand and appreciate the wide array of services that the Township funds and operates; it is important to note that in many cases, programs like social services, Ontario Works, policing, ambulance service, and child care are mandated, but only partially funded by the provincial government.

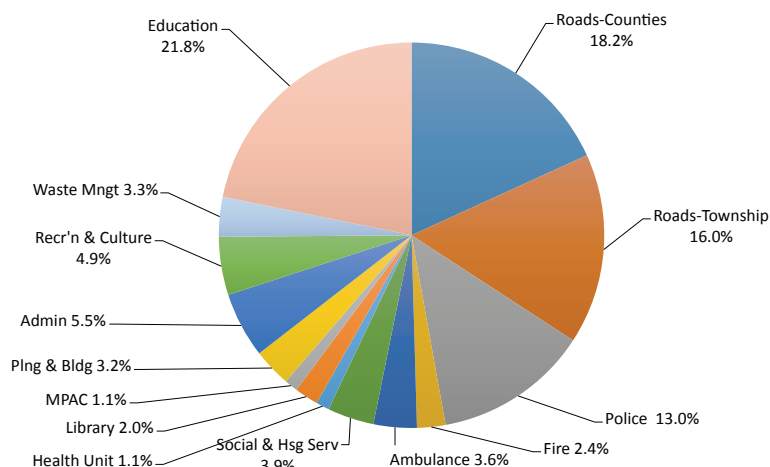
Get the latest news and updates throughout the year on our website, www.northdundas.com, our Facebook page and by following us on Twitter. We look forward to a productive year as we continue to find innovative ways to maintain our services and minimize costs to ratepayers in our community.

As always, please contact us if you have any questions, suggestions, or comments. Feel free to pass this report along to a neighbour or friend and spread the word about the positive things happening in North Dundas and SD&G.

James Shaw *Eric D.* *John H. H.* *Calin* *Mike* *Angela Rutley* *Stephen* *Dy*
Daniel *Paul* *Byrd* *Alta* *John Thompson*

2013 BUDGET: FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE AND FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

- 0.25% decrease to a residential home for North Dundas' portion of the tax bill.
- Collecting \$49,589 in new tax revenues from 2013 development.
- Overall tax bill (Township, Counties and Education) is expected to be below the Cost of Living again this year.
- More than one third of your property tax bill is effectively set or mandated by the Province. Education taxes are set by the Province and collected by the Township.



RECREATION AND CULTURE ARE THE BACKBONE OF A GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE

- Council has focused the Recreation and Culture Department's budget on improving and maintaining the many facilities throughout the Township, with an emphasis on capital repairs to existing buildings, fields and facilities.
- In 2013, the Chesterville Arena received a new slab, dasher boards and accessible bleachers. Renovations are currently underway at the Joel Steele Arena and will include a new slab, dasher boards and an accessible viewing area. The expected total cost of both projects is in the range of \$1.2 million, ensuring that our arenas will be available to be enjoyed by the next generation and beyond.
- Last year, work completed included: renovations to the Winchester Centennial Pool, upgrades to the Nelson Laprade Centre washrooms, installation of a new play structure in Harmony Park and replacement of the roofs at the Chesterville Park Pavilion and the Chesterville boat launch.
- 2014 will be busy with capital upgrades including:
 - Renovation of the Winchester Centennial Pool House including a new pool heater
 - Replacement of the Joel Steele Community Centre heating and cooling unit
 - Replacement of the Chesterville Arena lobby roof
 - Renovation of the Chesterville Community Centre washrooms
 - Replacement of the core play structure in Mountain Memorial Park
 - Repairs to the Chesterville boat launch
- The Township of North Dundas is one of the most active municipalities when it comes to recreation and culture programming. In 2013, we offered over 100 municipally-run programs and we have increased the variety even more by adding more summer camps to the 2014 line-up.

CUSTOMER SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS LEAD TO STRONG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

- Council and staff were honoured to be asked to present a well-received session at the Ontario East Municipal Conference in Kingston that explained our positive customer service enhancements in the Planning and Building Department. Attendees rated the presentation as one of the best.
- Summer hours were implemented (open Wednesdays until 7:00pm in Planning and Building from Victoria Day to Labour Day) to offer more convenient times to meet staff and apply for permits.
- Successful introduction of our Community Improvement Plan, which provided funding to 13 projects totalling \$116,000 in improvements and renovations in the Villages of Winchester and Chesterville. The program will expand to other Township hamlets in 2015.
- Major business development projects underway at Horst Systems, Parmalat and SynAgri.
- New subdivisions opening in South Mountain, Harmony, and Winchester. In addition, plans are underway for three additional new subdivisions in the Township.
- Our Economic Development Officer, Rob Hunter, continues to work directly with the business community regarding professional development and expansion opportunities. In just three years, he has assisted a number of businesses connect with grants for new jobs and capital projects totalling \$1.15 million dollars, with more applications underway.
- We have hosted 12 educational seminars and workshops for three key stakeholder groups (small businesses, contractors & builders, and festivals and events) to better communicate with them and share best practices and new ideas to enhance their work.

Planning and Building by the Numbers (2013)

Building Permits Issued:	178
New Homes:	47
Declared Value of New Construction:	\$19,688,761
New Industrial Development Value:	\$2.4 million
Agricultural Building Expansions:	\$1.7 million
Building Permit Fees:	\$100,019
Development Charges Collected	\$153,593

BALANCING BUDGETS, FUNDING CUTS & ROAD WORK

- Council has made significant progress on their commitment to improve gravel roads with 'tar-and-chip' surface treatment.
- An additional 9.6km of new surface treated roads were completed in 2013:
 - Kittle Road (3.0km)
 - Gray Road (1.0km)
 - Loucks Road (3.0km)
 - McIntyre Road (2.6km)
- County Road 1 between Mountain and South Mountain has generated a lot of attention from ratepayers for its poor condition. The main issue is the inadequate road base, which causes major frost heave each spring and permanent roughness throughout the year. County Council will be tendering and completing a major reconstruction and resurfacing from Cameron Road south to Nelson Road. The price of the project is estimated to be over \$830,000, the majority of which is building the proper road base. The project will be completed over a two year period (granular base 2014, asphalt 2015). The end result will provide a cost effective and lasting repair.
- Other County Road work to include a major resurfacing of County Road 31 from the City of Ottawa boundary to Winchester, County Road 7 from County Road 43 to South Street West in Chesterville, and final design preparations for the South Mountain Bridge by Nationview Public School.
- Increased budget for culvert replacements and sidewalk repairs are scheduled for 2014 \$800,000.



Photos courtesy of Winchester Press and Chesterville Record



PROLONGING THE BOYNE ROAD LANDFILL MAKES GOOD "CENTS"

- According to our mandated Operation and Development Plan for the Boyne Road landfill, the Township landfill is expected to be full by 2023.
- At that time, it is expected to cost North Dundas taxpayers \$1 million to close and cap the landfill. In addition to that major expense, it will cost another \$500,000 to monitor the site for the following 20 years.
- To delay this major expenditure, Council has acted to reduce the intake at the landfill by encouraging recycling, implementing a two bag residential limit, and increasing tipping fees and user fees on items like roof shingles.
- Council and staff are continually looking for ways to prolong the closure of the landfill, including a current Ministry of Environment application to increase its life to 2032 because of the policy and pricing changes we have made.



DID YOU KNOW?

- OPP costs and their respective salary increases (largely covered by property taxes) are negotiated and set by the Province of Ontario. In 2014, after a two year pay freeze, salaries increased by 8.55% in one year, amounting to significant budgetary pressure across SD&G.
- While there are many plows on County and Township roads during a storm, there are over 750 lane kilometres of local North Dundas roads and 2,000 lane kilometres of County Roads in SD&G. It takes, on average, 4 hours to complete one snow plow run before they can start a second cycle.
- To add one extra full-time ambulance on the road, it would cost just under \$1 million per year. County Council is pursuing the option of adding Paramedic Response Units (single paramedic cars with full equipment and supplies) to improve response times to scenes and improve outcomes.
- Your property tax dollars are mandated to fund the Eastern Ontario Health Unit at an annual cost of \$1,059,451 for SD&G. It operates health care related programs such as dental program, immunization clinics, illness prevention programs, parenting and counselling support services, and restaurant health inspections, just to name a few.
- Your county tax dollars operate 18 library branches across SD&G. North Dundas taxpayers contribute \$346,744 per year to operate the four North Dundas branches (South Mountain, Morewood, Winchester, and Chesterville).
- With brutal winter storms in late 2013, the winter maintenance expenses exceeded budget (established using a five year average). SD&G County Council needed to provide an extra \$680,840 for snow clearing and salting, while North Dundas was over budget by \$161,115 locally. In the 2014 budget, additional funds were allocated to winter maintenance to address the increase in snowfall so far this year, taking away capital funds that could otherwise be used for road work.
- The largest high speed internet and broadband program in North America will be completed by the end of 2014. Through the ground-breaking Eastern Ontario Regional Network, 95% of homes and businesses in rural Eastern Ontario will have access to urban-like quality and affordable Internet services. For more information, visit www.eorn.ca.
- When surface treating a gravel road, the largest expense is not the actual surface treatment, but the preparation and building of the road base. Many roads need several inches of gravel, improved ditching and the installation of filter cloth before laying the tar-and-chip surface.
- Did you know that before the Township discontinued the use of credit cards for property tax payments, the municipality was charged over \$27,000 per year in bank service charges? This small change amounted to a 0.5% tax savings each year.
- The North Dundas municipal debt burden is drastically lower than the Eastern Ontario average. While the average Township debt burden per household is \$1,100.00, North Dundas' debt burden is 1/10th of that at \$106/household. The majority of that debt comes from tile drain loans, which are repaid in full by local landowners making it revenue neutral (no cost to the general taxpayer).
- The Boyne Road landfill recycled 2651 tires of various sizes through our Ontario Tire Recovery Program in the past year. We also recycled 2,352 (4 ft) fluorescent lamps during the same period.

