

## **TAY VALLEY TOWNSHIP**

### **2013 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET**

#### **NARRATIVE**

The impact of this year's budget upon taxpayers is 2.6%, or about a \$21 increase per \$200,000 of residential assessment. The total 2013 tax requirement of \$4,369,000 is \$132,000 more than last year, of which \$21,000 is covered by growth in our tax base.

The 2013 Budget proposes essentially the same level of services and operations as were provided in 2012. The major challenge this year was to deal with a very large reduction in the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund grant distributed by Ontario in 2013. The \$51,000 loss of funding is very substantial for a municipality of our size. In addition, Council had to contend with a loss of \$18,000 in payments-in-lieu of taxes as a result of a change in the methodology used by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation to calculate assessments for Murphy's Point and Silver Lake provincial parks. The township has formally appealed this matter to the Assessment Review Board of Ontario.

Enthusiastic and committed volunteers worked with us to increase the recycling of reusable materials – books, clothing, furniture, toys, etc – that are taken to our waste sites for disposal. Included in this year's budget is a project to construct a Reuse Centre at the Glen Tay Waste-site. This would allow for a more manageable and safer environment for the handling of reusables. Valley Heartland and the Perth Community Foundation have provided grants to assist with this project.

The township will be conducting a greatly expanded roadside brushing program this year. As well, we will be opening the McVeigh Pit to use the material for winter sand. Savings will be realized by not having to purchase as much material from other sources as in prior years.

The Cultural Mapping Project that was funded by the Government of Ontario and undertaken last year was a great success and will be expanded upon this year. Residents are encouraged to go to the township's website to review the map and to identify the locations of cultural and historical sites located within our boundaries. The map will be used to promote tourism and economic development leading up to the township's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016.

As prices are expected to be more favourable this year, Council is reviewing options to conduct an expanded surface treatment program for 2013. The fluctuating price of oil products over the past few years necessitated the cancelling of our annual road surface-treatment program for 2011 and 2012, because of the high price of materials.

In addition, a .8km portion of Harper Road will undergo major repairs this year. We applied to the province for a grant to assist with the reconstruction of several kilometres of that major road this year, but we were not successful with our application.

Both the federal and provincial governments are very aware of the huge problems faced not only by themselves, but also by their municipal partners in regards to the costs of infrastructure replacement. Both senior levels of government have expressed a desire to assist in this regard, but are unable to do much under the current economic climate. Our 2013 infrastructure renewal and replacement program is all being paid for by our reserves.