Summer Newsletter

Townships of Head, Clara &Maria

July 12, 2006

New Disposal Site Hours—Again

August 1, 2006 will bring with it changes to our disposal site hours—yet again. In order to be compliant with our Certificates of Approval (authorization from the Ministry of the Environment to have a disposal site) and avoid fines starting at $25,000 per occurrence, we have had to recall all keys that ratepayers may hold to our disposal sites. Subsequently, to provide an alternative to the holding of disposal site keys, to provide access to our ratepayers, and to reduce the number of human/bear encounters at our campgrounds we have had to make some amendments to our current schedule. After considering various options Council has decided to operate the following schedule **as a trial**. We will now be opening our sites at Kenny Road and Bissett Creek Road daily, for a total of one hour **each evening** during the summer/fall months.



Beginning August 1, 2006 the disposal site on the Bissett Road will be open from 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. The site on Kenny Road will be open from 7:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. We believe that these changes will provide the most effective access for **all** ratepayers. It is our plan to modify our schedule for winter months as there will be reduced demand. We will keep you posted.

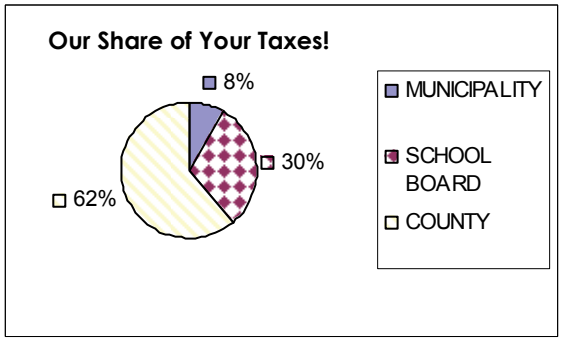
Please be advised that there will no longer be access to the sites during the daytime. We reiterate that this is a trial period. We will monitor use and make amendments to this schedule as is necessary.

Please feel free to submit any comments or concerns. Our job is to provide these services for you. We won't be able to do it without your input.

Tax Bills Due!

Final 2006 tax bills have been mailed. Due dates for 2006 installments are July 31st and October 31st.

Did you know that only 8% of your taxes stay with the municipality? 30% goes to the provincial government for education and 62% goes to the County. For 2006 $152,000 is all we will keep.



There is some good news for those of you who have been affected by property reassessments. The provincial government has announced that property reassessments will be cancelled until 2008 to allow MPAC time to implement the recommendations of the Ontario Ombudsman.

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Final tax bills have been mailed!
- ☺ Don't forget to ensure you are on the voter's list.
- ☺ Don't like what you see happening around you? Do something about it—2006 is Election Year! Run/Vote or Both!

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ARE YOU PLANNING TO BUILD?

Building Information is Now Available at the Township Office

One of the challenges with doing something new is not having all the information you need before you get started. And besides, the rules keep changing. Are you planning to build? Renovate? Redecorate? Don't know whether or not you need a permit? Well we have the information you need. We have developed and produced a number of handouts that tell you exactly what you need to know **before** you start to build.



"When is a Building Permit Required?" lets you know which projects do and which do not require a permit. It explains how to prepare and submit your application for permit, what the approval process involves and what the required notices and inspections are.

"A Homeowner's Guide to Building Permits" explains how to apply for a permit, a detailed list of which types of plans are required, occupancy permits and notices and inspections.

"A Homeowner's Guide to Porches & Decks" is just that. It explains when a permit is required, lists the plans required and specifics for different types of decks.

"A Homeowner's Guide to Sewage Systems" classifies various systems, discusses qualifications of installers and lists requirements for the application of your permit and location of your system.

But remember, these are just guides, for specific information, please speak with our CBO.

For any of these guides or a building permit please drop by, call the Township office at 613-586-2526 or our CBO at 613-586-1950.

Deux Rivieres "Protestant" Cemetery

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Townships are currently undergoing a process by which we will obtain ownership of the "abandoned" cemetery in Deux Rivieres, behind the Sarrazin Inn, known locally as the "Protestant" Cemetery. This cemetery is actually on private land and was never officially owned by any Church. Due to financial constraints imposed by the Province, the costs of maintaining this cemetery as an "active" cemetery are prohibitive. As a result, the landowners are in effect "abandoning" it and we are unable to operate it. As a condition of the transfer of this cemetery to the Townships the Judgment details that we must "resolve and determine that there shall be no further interments under any circumstances in or within any part of the aforementioned cemetery property." Further, no new marker, monument, tombstone, plaque, headstone or other structure may be erected within or on the lands. The Townships will be responsible for the upkeep of the property and will keep a public register at the Township Office recording the name of each person interred at the cemetery, the location of interment and the date. Please be advised that this transfer is imminent and that the Townships will be responsible for ensuring that no future interments will take place.

Veteran's Memorial Project

As you may have read in a recent edition of the NRT, a group of involved residents have organized to work towards erecting a memorial to honour those who have served our country, in times of war and in peace time. A plaque with the names of all known individuals, will be affixed to a large rock that will be located beside the Township Office in Stonecliffe in memoriam. Plans include a small garden and walkway, a visitor's log and the monument itself. This project has been taken on by a group of residents who have been working diligently to organize and obtain funding for the memorial. Council has promised a contribution and funds have been received from various businesses in the area. However, further donations would be appreciated and will be accepted at the Township office to make this project all it can be. Do you know someone who's life and memory you would like to honour? Would you consider a donation to this worthy cause? If so, please forward cheques made payable to the Townships with "Memorial Fund" in the memo section. A tax receipt will be issued. Thank you to those who have already generously contributed time and money to this notable project.

Care to Know Where your Money Goes?

On Tuesday, May 16, 2006 the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria formally adopted its budget for the 2006 calendar year. This budget chart shows all sources of revenue (your taxes are in the "Taxation" section) and expenses for this year. 2005 figures are included for reference.

REVENUE	BUDGET 2005	ACTUAL 2005	Budget 2006
Community Reinvestment Fund (Provincial Subsidy)	$219,000.00	$219,000.00	$164,931.00
(Already Received)	$54,069.00	$54,069.00	
Payments in Lieu	$95,000.00	$99,138.00	$ 99,000.00
provincial roads upgrade grant (One Time)			$ 9,600.00
gasoline tax (Federal Gov. funding)		$2,226.00	$ 2,226.00
other Provincial Revenue	$6,832.00	$10,627.00	$ 10,627.00
Taxation	**$145,309.00**	**$145,202.00**	**$152,000.00**
other Revenue	$12,450.00	$22,546.00	$ 32,728.00
Administration	$1,800.00	$6,387.00	$ 2,900.00
Surplus	$1,134.00	$1,134.00	$ 71,553.00
Miscellaneous Income	$6,000.00	$8,517.00	$ 5,355.00
Contingency Reserve			$-
Vehicle reserve			$-
Emergency Reserve			$ 5,000.00
Roads Capital projects Reserve			$-
Disposal site Reserve	$30,000.00	$30,000.00	$ 10,000.00
Working Capital Reserve	$23,500.00	$23,500.00	$ 45,000.00
IT Reserve			$ 5,000.00
gasoline tax reserve			$ 2,226.00
transition funding reserve			$ 54,069.00
Recreation Reserve			
TOTAL REVENUE	$595,094.00	$622,414.00	$672,215.00
EXPENSES			
General Government	$167,630.00	$152,593.00	$195,687.00
Information Technology	$2,100.00	$1,802.00	$6,800.00
Protection to Property & Persons	$52,075.00	$49,194.00	$ 52,575.00
Emergency Management Committee	$2,150.00	$407.00	$13,050.00
Fire	$20,805.00	$18,612.00	$ 24,540.00
Transportation Services	$150,465.00	$120,315.00	$184,533.00
Recreation	$19,550.00	$18,938.00	$ 24,000.00
Environmental Services	$79,500.00	$49,383.00	$108,976.00
Building	$8,000.00	$3,234.00	$12,500.00
Other Expenses	$92,819.00	$104,473.00	$ 49,554.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	$595,094.00	$517,446.00	$672,215.00

Bear Problems?

The MNR has a 24 hour toll-free line to report human-bear conflicts or nuisance bear incidents. The line is staffed from April 1 to November 30. They will call you back. Please call:

1-866-514-2327 or 911 in an emergency.

2006 Township Budget

Did you know that all Township by-laws, budgets, policies and other documents are available for public viewing at the Township Office?



The Auditor's Financial Statements are Available for Viewing at the Township Office. Stop by and take a look!

Wildfire Service Volunteers Needed !

The *Forest Fire Protection Act* states that "every municipality in a fire region shall at its expense extinguish grass, brush or forest fires within its limits." Our volunteer wildfire service provides this protection to our residents. We also have an agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources to provide for services above and beyond our capabilities.

We are currently looking for residents who may be interested in becoming a part of our team. We acknowledge that there is a gap in protection for the Deux Rivieres area. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer, and are willing to complete the required training, please call the office for more information. Our volunteers have to be properly trained on technique and the use of our equipment. **We are willing to go to Deux Rivieres for training**. Interested?

Townships of Head, Clara &Maria

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Melinda Reith—Clerk
Ruth Morin—Treasurer
Wilfred Lamure—Road Superintendent
Carol Larocque—Disposal Site Attendant
Ingram Loewe—CBO—613-586-1950

FEEDBACK? QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? COMPLAINTS?

Do you have questions relating to the Townships you would like answered? Is there some Township policy you would like to better understand? If you are wondering about it, others likely are as well. Contact us and let us know. We may include it in a future newsletter.

Our website is also a source of information although in need of updating. Keep checking—we soon plan to include much more current and up to date information.

Township Emergency Response Plan

What is your part?

In Ontario the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* governs responsibility for emergency response. Under this act "every municipality shall develop and implement an emergency management program and the council of the municipality shall by by-law adopt the emergency management program". The Township currently has an Emergency Response Plan that details how we will organize to handle emergencies. This document is available for viewing at the Township Office and on-line. It is available for your information, please, take the time to familiarize yourself with it.

Further under the Emergency Management Doctrine for Ontario it states that "Individuals are responsible for the safety, preparedness, and well being of themselves and their family. At a minimum, everyone should possess an awareness of the hazards that might affect him or her and be sufficiently prepared to deal with them. This should include being prepared to take care of themselves and their families **for up to three days** in the event of an emergency." Are you prepared? Do you have your emergency kit assembled?

The Townships Community Emergency Management Program Committee is always looking for interested individuals to help prepare our community for emergencies. Is this something that might interest you? Please call for more information.

Off-Road Vehicles and Township Roads

It's that time of year, everyone wants to get out and enjoy the outdoors, each in their own way. We have had a number of instances involving off-road vehicles and questions about access to Township roads.

The MTO website at http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/orv.htm is a wealth of information. However, for a brief summary…

Off-road vehicles (ORVs) now have more access to the shoulder and paved portions of **some** Ontario highways. These new regulations, effective July 31, 2003, apply exclusively to one category of ORV. This is defined as an off-road vehicle that:

- has four wheels, the tires of which are all in contact with the ground;
- has steering handlebars;
- has a seat that is designed to be straddled by the driver; and

meets requirements of federal Motor Vehicle Safety Act and American National Standards Institute.

(New regulations do not apply to other types of off-road vehicles such as mini-bikes, dirt bikes and moto-cross bikes.)

Where Off-Road Vehicles Can / Cannot Travel

- New regulations apply to provincial highways only
- Prohibited from 400 series highways, Trans-Canada Highway (17)

As of July 2003, municipalities were given the authority to determine whether or not off-road vehicles (ORVs) should be allowed access to highways *under their authority*. If a by-law does not exist, ORVs are not allowed access to that municipality's road.

The Township does not have such a by-law therefore ORVs are not allowed access to highways (roads) under our authority. Since we do not have a by-law we subsequently do not have any authority to enforce ORV issues. This is a *Highway Traffic Act* issue, and as such, should you have any concerns—please call the OPP.

Be considerate! Be Safe! Happy Riding!