



MUNICIPALink

Local Government Week
October 16—22, 2011

What Does Local Government Do?

Municipal government is the closest and most accessible level of government for taxpayers. Your Municipal government directly or indirectly provides local services and functions including:

- Police and Fire Protection
- Utilities, Water and Sewer, Maintenance and reconstruction of roads, sidewalks, bridges
- Transit services, traffic signals and streetlights
- Planning and Building: land use, environmental protection, long range planning/development
- Parks, recreation, libraries and cultural programs
- Management of the Municipality's business matters, financial activities, and statutory responsibilities
- Birth/Death Registrations, Lottery, Marriage and Taxi licenses, Commissioner of Oaths
- Promotion of the Municipality to attract business and support tourism

Port Hope Municipal Council/Committee of the Whole meetings are held on alternating Tuesday evenings at 7pm - the public is always welcome to attend.

For more information on Port Hope Council, meetings (including Agendas and Minutes) and roles/responsibilities of our Municipal Departments, visit www.porthope.ca.

Why do you love Port Hope?
What is your vision for the future of our community?
Tell us why you want to be ...

Mayor for a Day

Open to students grades 5 to 8 in all Port Hope schools

Student(s) whose entries are chosen will spend the morning with the Mayor and be invited to present his/her submission at a televised Council meeting.

Send your submission by letter, email or video by October 21, 2011 to:

Mayor for a Day

56 Queen Street, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z9 or communications@porthope.ca

For more information visit www.porthope.ca

Municipal Financial Strategy

The Municipality employs a comprehensive financial approach for capital planning to maximize interest revenue and maintain a pool of reserves to ensure that funds are available when needed.

Reserves

A pool of reserve accounts is maintained for expenditures on real property, equipment, vehicles, and miscellaneous (e.g. insurance deductible, sick leave reserve). Municipal policy ensures that regular contributions are made to reserves (similar to a savings account for a future purchase) and that funds are consistently used for the purposes for which they were set aside. The 10-year capital forecast is reviewed annually to ensure a balanced approach in contributions to and draws from reserves each year. Reserve spending has been strategically aimed at maximizing business/industry tax revenue, reducing tax burden on residents, and creating jobs.

Debt Management

The Municipality plans strategic use of cash flow and borrowing to maximize interest revenue and manage debt. Port Hope currently carries debt for infrastructure projects and new fire vehicles. As of December 31, 2010 the Municipality has borrowed a total of \$38.9 million and annual payments on this debt total \$3.2 million. For 2011, the Provincial debt repayment limit (maximum amount allowed in principal and interest payments) is \$5.3 million putting Port Hope's projected annual debt payments well within the provincially established limit.

Municipal Budget 2012

Planning for the 2012 Municipal Budget is underway. **All meetings of the Budget Committee are open to the public.** An outline of the budget process is provided below and additional information on the budget process and notice of Budget Committee meetings are available at www.porthope.ca or by contacting finance@porthope.ca

MUNICIPAL BUDGET PROCESS

BUDGET TASK	DETAIL	TARGET TIMELINES
Budget guidelines and base budget	Guidelines for budget process (including inflationary estimates and other outside factors) prepared. Base budget drafted with prior year's figures for comparison	July—August
Budget submission preparation	Departments prepare capital/operating budgets. Community Grant applications received	August – October
Detailed review of Budget submissions	Detailed review by Finance Department including meetings with individual Departments	October—November
Management Team Budget meetings	Management Team meetings to review Department budget submissions (Capital and Operating)	October—November
Budget Committee Meetings	Weekly Budget Committee meetings to review Operating and Capital budgets/Community Grant applications	December—January
Budget Presentation to COW	Final draft budget presented to Committee of the Whole	Early February
Public Review/Comment	Final draft budget available for public review and comment	Mid—February
Report to COW	Final draft budget including public comment presented to Committee of the Whole with recommendation to Council for approval	Late February
Budget Approval	Final Budget approved by Council	Late February

Community Grants 2012

As part of the annual budget process, the Municipality offers a Community Grant program for local not-for-profit organizations.

The program reflects Council's commitment to supporting our not-for-profit sector and the valuable programs and services that benefit our community.

In preparation for the 2011 budget, the Budget Committee considered 12 Community Grant applications with a value of \$379,292. In the final budget, grants totaling \$108,000 (net of non-tax funding sources), were provided in support of:

- Olde Tyme Christmas
- Canada Day Celebrations
- Heritage Business Improvement Area
- Port Hope Jazz Festival
- PH & District Chamber of Commerce
- Art Gallery Northumberland
- Float your Fanny
- Capitol Theatre
- Port Hope Walk In Clinic
- Rotary International

Applications for the 2012 Community Grant program are now available and completed applications must be received **by October 28, 2011**.

Further information and applications forms are available at www.porthope.ca under Quick Links or contact Deb McRae, Accounting Coordinator at dmcrae@porthope.ca or 905.885.4544

Port Hope Youth Centre Hits the Social Scene



LIKE us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/PortHopeYouthCentre

The Port Hope Youth Centre recently joined the social media crowd with the unveiling of its brand new Facebook page. Youth can now stay connected with up to the minute updates of what's happening at the Youth Centre.

Operating out of the Town Park Recreation Centre, the centre offers an incredible variety of activities and opportunities for youth including recreational programs, events and volunteer opportunities.

Leadership skills development is a big part of programming and Youth members are given the opportunity wherever possible to be involved. In developing the brand new logo, three versions were created with members of the Youth Centre deciding on the final version by popular vote.

Port Hope Youth Centre hours and activities are available at www.porthope.ca under Quick Links/Recreation Opportunities. For more information contact youth@porthope.ca or call 905.885.7908.



ONTARIO WILDLIFE DAMAGE COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Recent changes to the *Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program* are now in effect and include an expanded list of eligible livestock species and eligible wild-life predators as well as an update to the maximum values of compensation.

The new legislation restricts claims for lost livestock and poultry to those determined to be as a result of the newly expanded list of predators, but will not include losses or injury by dogs. Damage to livestock due to dogs are covered by the new *Protection of Livestock and Poultry from Dogs Act* effective July 1, 2011.

The new compensation program provides a greater range of potential compensation to livestock owners depending on the livestock species and whether it is “pedigree” or “registered stock”. There are no limits to the number of claims that may be filed by a livestock owner but the new program encourages responsible livestock operations and

requires that owners have sufficient predation deterrents such as fencing, proper livestock storage, and appropriate mitigation measures in place.

Regulations now require owners to notify the Ministry through the Municipality within 48 hours of discovering the livestock injury or death. The Municipal Livestock Valuer will undertake a complete investigation within three days including a subsequent written report to be submitted to the Ministry and Municipal Staff will process any applicable payment to the owner.

Under the new program, the Livestock Valuer decision is open to appeal and the owner may request a second independent Valuer assessment.

For more information, contact 1-877-424-1300 or ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca or contact Corporate Services at (905) 885-4544 or sdawe@porthope.ca

CONNECT WITH COUNCIL

Council 101 is an information series designed to provide easy-to-access information on Council processes.

The full series is available at www.porthope.ca under Quick Links/Council Communications and at all Council Meetings.

Council Meetings and **Committee of the Whole (COW) Meetings** are held on alternating Tuesday evenings at 7pm in Council Chambers at Town Hall. All meetings are open to the public and you are encouraged to attend.

Council and COW Meeting Agendas are available after 3pm on the Friday before each meeting and **Minutes** are available the Wednesday following at www.porthope.ca. Electronic copies can be obtained at no charge if you provide a memory stick to Corporate Services and hard copies can be purchased for \$10.

Contact Council by phone, email or letter (personal meetings can also be arranged). Visit www.porthope.ca for contact information or call Town Hall at 905.885.4544.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Join us at the Canton Municipal Office on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 from 7—9pm

Council members answer your questions— **EVERYONE WELCOME**

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