

Conservation Authority issues levy

COLBORNE CHRONICLE

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The 12 member municipalities of the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority have received their notice of tax dollars required to run the authority in 1999.

For Colborne village, the levy is seeking \$7,693 - or 2.54 per cent of the \$302,866 to be raised by municipalities. Cramahe Township is asked for \$17,415, or 5.75 per cent of the total general levy.

"The proposed general levy represents a per capita cost of \$4.64 based on a watershed population of 65,200," LTRCA General Manager James Kelleher states in his letter the 12 member municipalities. That's an 81-cent per capita increase over the 1998 general levy.

The municipal levy provides approximately 34 per cent of the funding for the conservation program of the agency.

The levy is raised by assessing the amount to be raised against the 1998-instituted real market value assessment of property within the municipality.

For Colborne, the village is assessed at a \$53,843,741 value, Cramahe Township at \$121,747,745.

"The increase" in this year's municipal levy "is necessary to address two issues related to the conservation lands," says Mr. Kelleher. "Firstly, our land taxes have risen dramatically and, at the same time, provincial grants have been eliminated. This will place the conservation authority in a deficit position entering 1999. The land tax increase must be dealt with.

"Secondly, we must deal with conservation lands that have ageing and deteriorating infrastructures. Basic items such as signs, trails, picnic tables, washroom facilities, parking areas, roadways, picnic shelters, etc., are deteriorating as a result of the 70 per cent funding cutback from the province and 20 per cent cutback from the member municipalities in 1996/97."

The conservation lands are not only

important in and of themselves for the use of residence, but also as a drawing card for regional tourism and visitors.

New this year for the 1999 budget, are "special levies" against municipalities where work has been done on conservation authority property that primarily benefits only that one municipality. Quinte West is receiving a one-time "special" or "extra" levy of \$26,000 in 1999 to offset land assembly costs in the City of Trenton.

Two other small "special" levies, over and above the general levy, include \$100 for Haldimand Township where lakefront erosion control was done, at \$150 for an erosion control measure in the Town of Campbellford.

The LTRCA formal and final 1999 budget goes to board vote on February 11.

The board is comprised of one council member from each municipality - except Quinte West which has two, reflecting its population base - plus the General manager Jim Kelleher.

Province-wide, individual conservation authorities are established to cover watersheds - the territory in which the network of streams, lakes and floodplains contain the waterways flowing to their final largest body of water - be it lake and/or river. The Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority watershed area of the conservation authority covers over 800 square miles in the 12 member municipalities.

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How bazaar!

PHOTOS BY MANDY MARTIN
The Catholic Women's League annual Christmas tea and bazaar was a popular spot last Saturday. At left (from

left to right) Thelma Ouelette, Jackie Stone and Rose Sheldrick share hostess duties. "I have to keep taking things from other tables to keep items for sale on this table," said Min Bubb-Clark (picture at top left). No wonder, with the sales acumen of herself and Tass Corbier, (top right) The handmade items were popular with shoppers.