

# *This* WEEK's focus on Lincoln

## Town hopes to keep increases low in 2007 water budget

### Tough regulatory environment means annual increases will continue say officials

BY SHELLA GARDEZI  
THIS WEEK

LINCOLN—The Town of Lincoln water and sewer rate “increase is steadily dropping” said CAO Bruce Peever last week.

Town Councillors examined the proposed water and sewer rates at a meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11 at a Corporate Priorities meeting.

The Town is considering a water rate of 1.579 per cubic metre compared to a rate of 1.464 budgeted last year.

Peever said it would be impossible for water rates to decrease given the climate of increased water quality regulation, but he said staff can work to keep increases modest, through initiatives such as preventative maintenance.

Getting control of water loss through the installation of water metres was of assistance in bringing down water rate increases, he said. In 2001, the Town was experiencing about a 30 per cent water loss. The goal is to bring water loss down to about 13 per cent.

In total, the proposed water budget increase is approximately \$185,000.

Sewer rates are proposed to rise over last year from \$1.425 to \$1.508 per cubic

metre. In total the proposed increase in about \$108,000.

Among the costs that will affect the water rate is the need for a backflow prevention program to prevent contaminants from being released back into the water supply, said Public Works Director John Kukalis. Although this cost will be born by the property owner, the Town will also be installing some new water metres at the same time as the backflow prevention device is installed. Administrative fees will also be waived for those who voluntarily install the device before a certain deadline. The cost budgeted for this program in the 2007 draft budget is approximately half of the \$150,000 the program is expected to cost the Town, he said.

As well, a new staff position will be needed to help the Town become an accredited operating facility, which is “a major undertaking,” said Kukalis.

“It may take a year to survive an audit plus perfecting it,” he said.

Mandatory training under the Clean Water Act, is also included in the budget, said Kukalis.



## MOJO MAKES 2007 COVER

Two-year-old Golden Retriever “Mojo” is making the rounds of Erie-Lincoln on the cover of MPP Tim Hudak’s 2007 calendar. Each month features a photo of animals submitted by local students. Winning photographer and Grade 6 Central Public School student Brittany Wilson of Beamsville, with her dad Doug Wilson, was congratulated by Hudak Jan. 14 at his New Year’s Levee at Flat Rock Cellars in Jordan. For a copy, call 1-800-665-3697.

## Student heads north to help develop health promotion project

BY JOANNE MCDONALD Jan 12/07  
THIS WEEK

LINCOLN-Beamsville resident Brett Copeland believes the highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental right of every human being.

He also knows that education is the key and he has been selected to help develop a unique health promotion project that will empower youth in the First Nations community of Neskantaga near Pickle Lake in northern Ontario.

The fourth-year Queen’s University student is one of 30 students chosen from thousands of applicants to join the Queen’s Medical Outreach this year.

He’s in for an experience of a lifetime and one that will ultimately enrich classrooms in Niagara West when he returns to pursue a teaching career in the local community.

The Township of Pickle Lake is the most northerly Ontario community that has year-round access by road and is located 530 kilometres north of Thunder Bay.

Leaving in May, Brett, 22, will live there and teach at the nearby First Nations community with a fellow Queen’s student chosen for the project.

For now, he’s back at Queen’s and this term will focus on developing an educational kit to service the diverse needs of the northern community. “Substance abuse, anger and grief management, parenting and conflict resolution are only a few of the issues we teach,” Brett said.

He must also focus on fundraising to find \$2,500 to cover

“We can’t forget the poverty, disease and illiteracy in our own nation and at our own back door. We can’t ignore our own problems.”

— Brett Copeland

the project costs.

In past years, the mayor of Pickle Lake loaned his own car to the Queen’s team. This year, Brett has to rent a car to be able to spend more time in the aboriginal community, and along with costs to purchase school supplies and pay for his own way, is working hard to keep up with his own studies and raise money for the northern adventure.

The Queen’s Medical Outreach is a student-run volunteer organization dedicated to promoting individual and community health both locally and abroad. Each year QMO sends 30 travelers to locations around the world to complete health promotion projects including award-winning medical research.

This year QMO is sending students to Kenya, Guyana, Belize and four locations in Northern Canada, as well as Kingston.

When Brett first became involved he was eyeing an “exotic” destination but decided it was more important to help fellow Canadians.



Beamsville resident Brett Copeland is among the 30 students chosen from thousands of applicants to join the Queen’s Medical Outreach this year. He will travel to Pickle Lake to work in a First Nations community.