

This WEEK's focus on Lincoln

Council looks at cuts to keep tax increase down

BY SHELLA GARDEZI
THIS WEEK

LINCOLN-Lincoln Council must make some cuts to the 2007 budget or residents could be hit with a 7.5 per cent increase in their municipal tax levy.

Town staff is proposing approximately \$250,000 worth of cuts to the Town's \$8.5 million operations budget to help bring the levy increase down to about 4.3 per cent from 7.5 per cent.

The Town of Lincoln general levy makes up 26 per cent of the overall tax bill.

Council members learned about the proposed cuts at a meeting to discuss the operational budget on Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Among the proposed cuts are a new position at the Lincoln Public Library for a savings of \$30,000 and an annual grant payment to the Twenty Valley Tourism Association of \$10,000 to act as the Town's tourism marketing organization.

The Library Board was scheduled to make a presentation addressing the proposed cut on Thursday.

Because of the warm weather, CAO Bruce Peever said the Town could realize a \$20,000 savings in Public Works, but because it is early in the year, he couldn't recommend any further cuts.

"We still have to respect winter," he said.

The Public Works budget was to be discussed in more detail on Thursday, Jan. 11.

Peever said it is preferable to look for budget cuts in the operational budget rather than in the capital budget. The capital budget is tied to the Statistics Canada Construction Index. Its increase this year is \$68,850.

Mayor Bill Hodgson agreed the capital levy should be tied to an objective index.

"If you don't levy and tie it to some kind of inflationary measure, what happens is you end up with infrastructure that is in terrible condition and you expose yourself to be ordered to correct it," he said. "What it is, is mortgaging our children's future."

Fire Chief Scott Blake presented the Fire Department's budget and noted there was a significant rise in structural

fires last year. On average, the fire department responded to two emergency calls per day. Although the department has not budgeted for the same high number, it has budgeted for an increase over previous years. Actuals are not yet available, said Peever. Combined with salaries and vehicle maintenance, a total increase of \$64,600 or 5 per cent has been proposed for the Fire Department.

One major expense the Town of Lincoln could face in 2007 are legal fees related to the proposed compost facility, said Planning Director Kathleen Dale. Whether council approves the decision or not, the Town would likely be taken to the Ontario Municipal Board, which could be costly. Even if the Town is successful in its appeal, it will still need to pay legal costs, she said.

The Town did receive some good news this year, including an Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund grant of over \$1 million from the province.

Town Council will bring its draft budget to a public open house on Wednesday, Jan. 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Lincoln Centre.

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F.W.I.O. celebrates 110 years

BY VIRGINIA BLACKMAN

On a cold night in February 1897 the Women's Institute met for the first time.

All present had no idea what they were about to embark upon when it came to women's issues. It would help to strengthen family life, enrich rural communities not only in Ontario but across Canada and Internationally.

The WI became an educational group with the sole purpose of teaching women the fundamentals of cooking, sewing and quilting plus canning.

In the beginning, WI was the first group to empower women to speak in public, learn parliamentary procedure, and get involved with lobbying for government change.

Adelaide Hoodless was a well-educated woman, but she found out after the death of her son John Harold in 1889 at 14 months of age, she needed to learn more.

Doctors called it "summer complaint" an intestinal problem from drinking impure milk. She wondered how many more women ran into this same problem, because of lack of knowledge. She helped organize this women's group.

The first meeting had 101 women and one man, Erland Lee, in attendance at a town hall in Stoney Creek. At a conference in 1896 Adelaide Hoodless told a group of men at Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph they cared more for their animals' health and feed than they did that of their own families.

Mrs. E.D. Smith was the first president and Mrs. E. Lee and several well-known women from the local communities made the leaders of this new women's group.

In 1902 at a convention the motto "For Home and Country" was born. A blue and gold pin was made which became Ontario's logo.

The membership grew and by the summer of 1905 and 1906, branches were organized in the north.

Since then branches have opened up across Canada and around the world.

Between 1952 to 1998 many resolutions were passed by the WIs and over the years have resulted in new or changed legislation.

Among the changes was the law (1974) that made it illegal to pass a schoolbus until lights stopped flashing. Then in 1998, safety bars on the front of school buses were made mandatory.



The early WI members belonging to the Kemble Women's Institute, the third branch founded in 1897.

In 1954, WI investigated the wide asking price between producer and consumer for meat and eggs, this was to come up again in 2004.

The welfare of children once again was on WI members minds in 1981, when junk food in school cafeterias were discouraged and the promotion of good nutritional food came about.

A stamp was issued in June of 2003 of Adelaide Hoodless to honor the work she had done.

The FWIO focus still on high-quality education and support many programs and services that assist and encourage women to become more knowledgeable and active citizens. It also promotes and develops vital family life skills and tries to help discover, stimulate and develop leadership qualities in women.

Also looking into the future by interacting with technology, upgraded news magazines will inform, educate and challenge members at all levels of the organization.

FWIO is now 110 years old and will be celebrating through out the year with many activities; also the individual branches will be planning different programs. For more information on your local Women's Institute branches you can contact Virginia Blackman by email at dustergirlca@sympatico.ca or write to 6419 young RR# 3 Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0. Hopefully you will come and join us at one of our branches nearest you and see what we are all about.