

TOWNSHIP AND COUNTY

Each year the County of Renfrew apportions a tax levy on each and every municipality in the County. The amount required from the Township last year was \$17,429. The amount of the 1978 levy is \$20,110. Now, we may wonder why the Municipality must pay "taxes" to the County. Well, in summary fashion here are some of the answers.

1. HOMES FOR THE AGED

There are two homes for the aged for which the County as a whole is responsible: Bonnechere Manor in Renfrew, and Miramichi Lodge in Pembroke. While the Province subsidizes the operating costs of these homes to the largest extent, still the county and the City of Pembroke must assume a significant share of the costs. The County's share is covered by way of the funds collected through tax levies made on all local municipalities.

2. PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

The correct name is the Renfrew County and District Health Unit. The main office of the Health Unit is located near Pembroke, but due to the size of the County small sub-offices are maintained in Arnprior, Renfrew, Barry's Bay and Deep River.

The broad range of services provided by the Public Health professionals is important to the well-being of every community, and is likely to be even more so in the future as the emphasis on the care of persons shifts more and more to the local community due to the high cost of institutional care. The Public Health Nurses and Inspectors are highly qualified people in their respective fields of service.

Although, once again, this agency is largely subsidized by the Ministry of Health, nevertheless all municipalities share in the operational costs through the County tax levy.

3. OTHER SERVICES

The County is involved with other services which affect our lives, and for which the taxpayer must share the costs. For example:

- Through its Economic Development Department the County Promotes Tourism and Industrial development. This Department is quite involved in the development of TIMBERTOWN.
- Through its Planning Department the County is assisting municipalities with Zoning By-laws, Policy Statements and Official Plans.
- Through its Roads Department the County carries a responsibility for road maintenance and construction in certain designated areas. For instance, close to home the County maintains the road between Burnstown and Renfrew, and from Burnstown through to Highway 17, and from Burnstown to White Lake and Arnprior.

And so, obviously, there is a distinct and important relationship, in terms of service and sharing of costs, between the Township and the County of Renfrew.

POSTSCRIPT

And that brings the story of your Township and its affairs of government up to date, albeit in summary fashion. To record every detail would call for a much larger and expensive printing job; whereas the main intent has been to highlight significant information. Perhaps this purpose has been achieved, and will suffice to reassure the public that a reasonable return is being made on the whole from tax revenues. Perhaps, too, anyone not satisfied with "the way things are run" will understand more clearly the position of those who must think and try to be wise, who must make decisions with their neighbours' well being in mind, and who must then evaluate their political actions.