

## Local Government

A police village is an unincorporated locality which for some purposes is still part of the township in which it is situated. A Board of trustees (3) is elected by the inhabitants of the village. Their term of office is the same as municipal councillors. The trustees have limited powers for the local self government of the village.

Since 1965 no new police villages may be created and recent amendments to the municipal act are designed to bring about the eventual dissolution of this form of government.

### HISTORY OUTLINE

The original act states - a petition signed by the majority of owners in the locality may request formation, not less than 150 people and not more than 500 acres must be involved. Application was made to council of the township and then to the Province for approval. Expansion was allowed based on population (i.e. 20 acres added for each additional 100 population over 500.)

### TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

The three elected officials are governed by laws set out in the Municipal Act. Meetings are held regularly and are open to the public. As with Township Councils, all information and documents relating to the actions of the trustees may be requested by residents.

Police Village Trustees may (by the Act)

- 1) construct sidewalks, culverts, make and improve, drain and repair roads within the village.
- 2) contract for light, heat and power for the village and its residents.
- 3) make agreements for the supply of fire protection, garbage collection, etc. for village residents.

Trustees have the power to pass bylaws with respect to 1) driving and riding on village roads, vehicles on sidewalks, snow removal, garbage disposal, fire prevention, fire arms within the village, animal control, parking areas and the operation of certain business. When passing a bylaw the trustees must submit it to the township council for final approval and publication.

Trustees receive an honorarium which varies greatly from village to village.

### INCOME FOR OPERATION

Each year the trustees must prepare a budget projecting the amount of money they need for the continuance of services they wish to supply to residents. This budget is presented with a suggested mill rate to Township Council who then assess the residents of the police village to raise these funds. Township Council collect the taxes on behalf of the trustees and all bills are paid by the Township clerk. The mill rate for police village residents is shown under "Special Rate".

As no grants are now available to police villages, the village residents must pay the total cost of improvements and/or services. This increases the mill requirement for the operation of the village.

### WARD SYSTEM

Replacing the police village since 1965 is the Ward System. This is the means by which a township (&/or larger units) divide their jurisdiction into electoral districts. When the ward system is operating fully, each ward would have a representative elected to Township Council and that person would represent the residents of his/her ward.

Bastard and South Burgess has designated the Portland area as a ward. This was done as it was the only way to enlarge the old police village boundaries (no expansion for police villages has been allowed since 1965). The Township has not activated the Ward System (due to low population areas) and the village still has its 3 trustees operating under the same guidelines as a police village.

Residents of village and township alike should try to keep informed of the workings of their municipal government. Attend meetings, ask questions and learn the facts. Often the hardest job an elected official has is to correct misconceptions about who is responsible for what. While collecting data for this series the following misinformation came to light - from tax payers of the area.

- 1) Village residents pay a different mill rate for education because they don't pay for transportation  
Untrue - the education mill rate is levied on all residents (difference occur only for Separate School supporters.)
- 2) The mill rate raises the same amount in the village as the mill rate in the township.  
Untrue - the village mill rate is based on only the assessment of village property.
- 3) Lights on highways at village entrances are paid by the village.  
Untrue - these are owned and operated by the Ministry of Transportation and Communication (likewise the warning light on Main Street, entering Hwy. 15 in Elgin).
- 4) Township Council prevents the village trustees from acquiring funds and doing work that they wish to do.  
Untrue - Guidelines for police village trustees operation are stated in the same legislation as the Township council and are sometimes very restrictive. If trustees present a budget then the council assesses for the amount requested. Township council may NOT channel other funds into this budget. Joint projects may be undertaken in special circumstances and township council may assist in certain projects. - As with all elected officials, the police village trustees have a difficult job and cannot please everyone. They are governed by some restrictive legislation. As residents of a police village we have an obligation to know how the system works. It could be the trustees would appreciate our interest and support.



**WATERFRONT** - 3 bedroom elevated bungalow, vinyl and brick exterior, airtight woodstove in family room, fibreglass boat with 40 H.P. motor included. Asking \$41,900.00.

**5 YEARS NEW** - bungalow near Lyndhurst, 1½ baths, recreation room with fireplace and built-in bar, den or fourth bedroom, workshop, laundry room, storage room, attached garage with paved drive. 13½% first mortgage due in 1983. Asking \$48,500.00.

**3 ACRE LOT** - on country road No. 3, near Lyndhurst. Asking \$5,700.00.

**ONE ACRE LOT** - well treed, with beautiful view of Lower Beverley Lake. Owner will consider holding mortgage. Asking \$7,000.00.

**LYNDHURST** - 3 bedroom house, 4 piece bath, family room with patio doors, needs some interior work. Try \$1,500.00 down.

**EXCELLENT LOCATION** - in Lyndhurst for any type of business. Busy tourist area. Double house, live in one half, convert other half or utilize other large buildings for business. Could also purchase adjoining 45 acres with water frontage. Financing arranged.

**KEN BURNS, LYNDHURST,**  
928-2640

Sales Rep. for

**Koachmen Realty Ltd.**  
Broker

Brockville Office - 345-5558

**RADIO-TELEVISION**  
**duncan's**

Sales and Service

359-5660

MAIN STREET, ELGIN, ONTARIO

**Panasonic** &  
just slightly ahead of our time

**TOSHIBA**

**OPEN** 9:00a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
MONDAY --- FRIDAY  
SATURDAY UNTIL NOON

Service to most makes  
Antenna Installation

& Repairs

HOUSECLEANING?

Don't throw those treasures  
away!  
Bring them to the

**CROSBY FLEAMARKET**

Not enough? - Join with some  
friends and join the fun.

**SATURDAYS JUNE 27-SEPT. 5**

No reservations necessary.  
Bring your own tables.  
\$5.00 for the day.