

Essa homeowners face tax levy increase

By Richard Blanchard
Essa council has passed its 2008 budget with one of the largest percentage increases in recent years. Council voted four to one to pass the budget. Deputy mayor Terry Dowdall was the only member of council to vote against the increase. Township mayor Dave Guergis admitted that the increase was higher than the

township's increases in the recent past. "Much of the increase is due to our decision to approve the hiring of additional OPP officers which we previously agreed to; but I think that we can be back on track next year in terms of a smaller increase," said the mayor. Guergis added the township was spending more

money than normal on replacing the 5th Line bridge near Nicolston among other roads projects. Thornton area councillor Rick Newlove added that he felt that preparing a budget this year was more difficult than usual. "It was a tough year. We started off with an increase of six to seven per cent due to our increase in policing

costs, but I think that we tried to be fair in preparing the budget," he said. Newlove said that size of the proposed increase contributed to his decision not to support proceeding with the construction of a new library building in Angus this year. "I couldn't support a major capital project like that this year," he said. Deputy mayor Terry

Dowdall said that he would have preferred a budget increase which would have had an increase of between two and three per cent. "I have always supported tax increases in line with the actual increase in the cost of living," he said. Overall, the township will be levying \$355,948 this year. This does not include the

costs of waste management which will be a separate charge of \$153 per unit. The increase will see a house worth \$200,000, which paid taxes of \$1,697.13 in 2007, forking over an additional \$77.28 this year. The township also experienced assessment growth of three per cent between 2007 and 2008.

County growth plan works for Innisfil, says mayor

By Richard Blanchard
The draft report from Simcoe County's Growth Management Study should give the Town of Innisfil the opportunity to respond to growth pressure over the

next 25 years. "The population numbers recommended by the county are something that we (in Innisfil) can work with," said Innisfil deputy mayor Gord Wauchope last week.

The draft report, which was given provisional approval by the county's corporate services committee last week and were to be reviewed by county council last week. Wauchope said that he was particularly pleased with the report's emphasis on encouraging employment

growth within the township. "The corridor on (Highway) 400 will be the focal point for employment in the county, but there is the flexibility for other areas to achieve employment in their communities," he said. An open house for the plan was held at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston

yesterday. "We're pleased that the report was moving forward," said mayor Brian Jackson. "We will be pleased to get public input." Jackson also expressed his pleasure that the 400 corridor lands were designated in the study for future

employment. "It's important to get employment geographically the corridor is most likely in the county to attract new manufacturing and commercial (business)," he said. "The (Greater Toronto Area) is definitely moving north and these lands are a prime place."



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New emergency plan being prepared


By Chris Simon
Innisfil council could be passing its new emergency plan soon. Town staff have asked council for input into the draft Innisfil Emergency Response Plan by today. Staff are expected to present the plan — which outlines how the municipality should best deal with disasters — at council's next regular meeting May 7. "This plan is a significant step forward for the town's Emergency Management

Program, and reflects the progress made over the last few years," said Innisfil Fire and Rescue Service deputy chief Jim Ferry in a statement to council. "While this plan does not represent a change in service level, it will provide for a more effective and efficient program." All municipalities in Ontario must have an emergency plan, as mandated by the provincial government. While the town already has an emergency plan in place, the province has required

updates which incorporate lessons learned from emergencies such as September 11 and Hurricane Katrina. The current plan was also tested during recent spring flooding that occurred in various areas throughout the town, said Ferry. "Over the last few years, as the (town's emergency management) committee has administered the existing plan, various items were marked for revisions when the plan was next to be updated in accordance with

developing legislation." Among the changes to the current plan, several emergency procedures have been defined and contact roles were clarified for the town's Emergency Site Manager and Community Control Group. The proposed plan also more accurately reflects existing conditions within the community, said Ferry. The proposal also conforms to similar emergency plans passed by the County of Simcoe, provincial and federal governments.

Notice of Liquor Licence Application



The following establishment has applied to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario for a liquor licence under the *Liquor Licence Act*:

Application for a Sales Licence

SIRENIS FISH & CHIPS
4171 INNISFIL BEACH ROAD, UNIT 3
THORNTON (Indoor area)

Any resident of the municipality may make a written submission as to whether the issuance of the licence is in the public interest having regard to the needs and wishes of the residents. Submissions must be received no later than **May 25, 2008**. Please include your name, address and telephone number. If petition is submitted to the Commission, please identify the designated contact person. **Note:** The AGCO gives the applicant copies of any objections. Anonymous objections are not considered.

The personal information gathered is collected under the authority of the *Liquor Licence Act*. The principal purpose of the collection is to assess eligibility for the issuance of a liquor sales licence. Copies of all objections are given to the applicant. The information may also be disclosed pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Manager, Licensing and Registration, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario at the address, telephone numbers or e-mail address listed below.

Submissions to be sent to: **Licensing and Registration, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, 90 Sheppard Avenue East, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M2N 0A4. Tel: 416-326-8700 OR Toll-free in Ontario: 1-800-522-2876. Fax: 416-326-5555. E-mail: licensing@agco.on.ca**

TRAIN: Signals need streamline

Continued from FRONT
Councillor Peter Kmet, whose house lies near a crossing in Stroud, understands why the bylaw was

rejected. However, he would like to see GO streamline the whistle signals used by conductors. Often, the conductors use a mix of short and long whistle noises when approaching a crossing. "Could we look at having consistent whistles?" He said. "It seems like (the whistles)

are longer and shorter, it's not consistent." Others say an alteration would be difficult. "This is for safety reasons only," said deputy mayor Gord Wauchope. "There needs to be some sort of notice this is coming; you have to have the whistles. There is a law for the whistle (signals)."



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Legions missing out on county rebates

By Richard Blanchard
A number of local branches of the Royal Canadian Legion are missing out on municipal tax rebates from Simcoe county. While reviewing the proposed grant program by the county this year, Tay township mayor Scott Warnock asked about the \$32,000 dedicated to the rebate. "Are some of the legions not applying? Is the program retroactive for those who have not applied?," he asked. County CAO Mark Aitken responded that each legion branch must apply each year for the grant. "And the payments are not retroactive," he said.