



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR

Dear Residents:

With spring just around the corner, I feel an overall sense of renewal as we lay the groundwork for the remaining term of Council. Much has been done already; the Official Plan update is well underway, the 2009 budget has been finalized and Building Canada Funding has been received for Feeder Road from Highway 3 west to Forks Road.

Council is continuing to work with a team of dedicated, enthusiastic Nurse Practitioners. It is our sincere hope that their application for a proposed Community Health Care Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic will be accepted by the Minister of Health. My thanks to those who took the time to fill out the Health Survey to show that Wainfleet residents do need access to health care service within our community.

Another health-related good news item is that Wainfleet residents aged 55 and older now have access to Specialized Transit to Port

Colborne as a result of a partnership between the Canadian Red Cross, Port Cares and the Local Health Integration Network. For more information, please call the Wainfleet Municipal Office.

It should also be noted that there was a leachate spill at the Station Road Landfill Site (see related article below). I had hoped to be able to share this information with all residents via this newsletter, however, when it was clear the newsletter would not be received by residents until after the first week of April, the decision was made to notify those living in closest proximity to the site, by letter, on March 27, and follow up with a larger article to the entire Township population now.

*On behalf of Township Council,
Barbara Henderson, Mayor*



Station Road – Leachate Spill and End Use Plans

Since the Station Road Landfill Site was permanently closed on January 2, 2009, Niagara Region has moved forward with the closure works, including the placement of final clay cover and construction of a stormwater pond. Work will continue during the spring and summer.

On March 16, as a result of spring thaw conditions, there were several leachate seeps at the landfill site. Niagara Region staff responded quickly to contain most of the leachate on-site. However, some leachate-contaminated stormwater flowed into the drainage ditch on the west side of Station Road. The leachate-contaminated stormwater was pumped into vacuum trucks, and treated at a Regional wastewater treatment plant. A Ministry of the Environment officer inspected the site and observed the clean up of the Station Road ditch.

Niagara Region has implemented a number of measures to prevent

a recurrence of leachate-contaminated water leaving the site. These measures include placing haulage trucks on standby to remove leachate from the site; increasing the number of trucks that haul clay fill into the site; and permanently closing the site entrance with a clay berm.

Niagara Region staff will undertake more frequent inspections of the landfill site during the next several months. For more information on the Station Road Landfill Site closure works, please contact Jamie Kristjanson, Environmental Monitoring Program Manager, at 905-685-4225, extension 3734.

With respect to the site's "End Use" plans, the storm water management pond is currently under construction and arrangements are being made to import soil to bring the site to the appropriate contours.

Subject to discussions with staff from the Township and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority,

Official Plan Update

As most of you are already aware, the Township is in the process of creating a new Official Plan. To assist, we've engaged the consulting firm of Sorenson, Gravely and Lowes Planning Associates. Our aim is to create a new Official Plan that will determine how to manage land and resources to ensure a healthy and vibrant community for the next 20 years.

The review is being undertaken at this time for a number of important reasons:

- To respond to new Provincial Policy directions and to take advantage of new Provincial Planning tools that could enhance our community.
- To reflect policy changes in the Niagara Regional Official Plan.
- To strengthen our policy framework through discussions with the community to reflect their long-term vision for Wainfleet.

The review is planned to take approximately one year to complete. There will be many opportunities for community participation and everyone is encouraged to take part in the process if possible. Your participation is vital in ensuring

that the new Official Plan policies reflect the community's vision for the Township - today and for the next 20 years.

The initial "visioning" sessions were held in March and we were thrilled with the large turnout. As the study progresses, we'll be looking for additional community input. Once the "Background" documents are produced by the consultant (called the "Issues and Opportunities Paper") there will be workshops/open houses to discuss those "issues" and "opportunities". We anticipate those meetings in late spring, likely May.

The consultant will then produce potential "policy directions" for the new Official Plan. Again, there will be workshops/open houses to discuss those "directions" in late summer, likely August. The consultant will then produce a new draft Official Plan. It is anticipated that public workshops/open houses will be held in the fall to discuss the "draft", likely in October or November. Meeting notices for future events will be placed in the newspaper and on our website. Background material and outcomes of workshops will also be posted on the website.

Niagara Region is intending to construct a passive end use for the site (e.g. walking trails and overlooks). If this proposal is acceptable, Niagara Region will retain a landscape architect to prepare the detailed design. The end use can then be constructed as part of the site closure works project involving placement of capping and topsoil, and seeding.

Smoke Alarm Inspection

Early in May, the Wainfleet Fire Department will be embarking on a Smoke Alarm Inspection program. Fire Prevention Officer Richard Hamm and the Volunteer Department are preparing to inspect every residence in the Township. The Ontario Fire Code states that homeowners shall have a working smoke alarm on every level of their house, and outside of every sleeping area.

Budget

The Township of Wainfleet's Budget Committee has approved the 2009 budget in principle. The budget must now be approved at the Committee of the Whole and Township Council. The budget calls for a tax levy of \$3,585,379 - an increase of 3.82 per cent over 2008. Some of the increase is made up of assessment growth from new construction. The net impact on the taxpayer is a 2.99 per cent increase.

As 2009 taxes are based on a new property assessment that saw the average assessment increase by 6.73 per cent for residential properties, the resulting 2009 tax rate is actually 3.17 per cent lower than in 2008. An average home valued at \$185,417 (2008 - \$173,723) would see their Wainfleet portion of tax bill increase by \$34.22. The tax bill also includes a portion for Regional government, solid waste management and education.

Water & Sewer Project Update

The field work has started on the Natural Resources Study. Field biologists began their work in Wainfleet's Lakeshore area on Friday,

March 13. They are wearing highly visible safety vests, have appropriate identification, and will be carrying a letter of introduction from Niagara Region. Field biologists are working on public lands only. Work on private land will only occur if, and when, the owner has given written permission for field staff to be on the property.

The initial work in the field includes the counting of various animals including salamanders, frogs and birds. Other work will include water studies such as flooding and drainage, as well as gathering information on forests and trees,

streams and creeks, and other animals such as deer, fish, and turtles.

The field studies and field counts will carry on throughout 2009. This work will be done during the day but may extend into evening hours depending on what is required. Once the study is completed, the results will be made available to the Wainfleet community and the general public.

Archeological Impact Assessment - It has been determined that Archeological Services Inc. will do the archaeology work beginning in April.

Design Request For Proposal - will be awarded by the end of March.

Please continue to check the Township or Region's website for updates on the Project. If you have any questions about communication related to the Project, please contact any member of the Wainfleet Water and Sewer Project Public Liaison Committee. If you have a technical question related to the Project or would like to receive meeting notices, please contact Mary Lou Tanner, Project Manager, at 905-685-4225 ext. 3518.

March 10, 2009

Re: Natural Heritage Impact Assessment Study - Wainfleet Servicing
Niagara Region

Dear Resident:

Niagara Region conducted a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) in collaboration with Wainfleet Township for water and wastewater servicing in the Lakeshore Area. This Class EA was undertaken to address environmental and public health issues associated with contaminated drinking water supplies and failing septic systems.

Further to the Class EA process, Niagara Region is now conducting a Natural Heritage Impact Assessment to evaluate the natural resources in the study area. This work was required by the Minister of Environment and is being done to address potential impacts of the potential future construction of water/wastewater servicing. It will assist in determining appropriate mitigation measures to minimize environmental impacts. In addition, a comprehensive environmental monitoring program will be developed as a result of the natural resources work. The work is being overseen by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Niagara Region has retained Dillon Consulting Limited to undertake the Natural Heritage Impact Assessment in 2009. Field work will be undertaken by field biologists from the early spring 2009 through to the fall of 2009 to look at natural features along the preferred alignment of water/wastewater servicing, as well as in some interconnected features. Some of this field work will take place in the early morning and late evening hours. Field staff will be wearing high visibility vests and will not knowingly enter private property unless it has been previously arranged with the landowner.

Should you have any questions about the Natural Heritage Impact Assessment, please do not hesitate to contact Mary Lou Tanner of Niagara Region at (905) 685-4225, x 3518 or by e-mail at marylou.tanner@niagararegion.ca.

Sincerely,



Mary Lou Tanner, MCIP, RPP
Manager, Water and Wastewater