

# Augusta plans to hike taxes by 12 per cent

AUGUSTA TWP. LIBRARY

By MARK CALDER  
Staff Writer

V.F. - Augusta Township

MAYNARD — Augusta ratepayers face an average tax hike of 12 per cent in a budget expected next Thursday, Reeve Adrian VanSchie said Wednesday.

Homeowners can expect a hike that high, assuming the counties budget passes this week as proposed by the counties governance and finance committee.

VanSchie also stressed the hike could be higher or lower for individual taxpayers, depending on how their properties have been reassessed.

"Some homeowners will be hit with a 20-per-cent increase," VanSchie predicted.

The budget will mean a resident whose home remains assessed at \$100,000 will pay a 1.2 per cent increase. This translates into an hike of about \$14 from last year's bill of \$1,146.

Township taxes are comprised of three segments, the portion for township costs, an assessment from Leeds and Grenville Counties Council, and the money required for education purposes.

VanSchie said details of the budget are available from Clerk Ray Gilmour but Gilmour declined to release any information until the next council meeting.

However, VanSchie estimated the township portion of the budget at \$1.6 million.

While the reeve admits the average increase is hefty, he says it's unavoidable.

The cost of downloaded services such as policing and capital work the township faces, leaves council with little choice, he said.

"We're looking at some major construction projects," he said.

The biggest include road repairs and resurfacing of the Charleville Road and the Branch Road. Both projects are expected to cost the township a total of \$300,000.

"The pavement is starting to fall apart and we need to have this done immediately. If we don't, failure is imminent."

Another major factor is the downloaded price of OPP policing, expected to cost the township \$225,000 this year and the next. That expense will balloon to about \$550,000 in 2000, when the full cost of policing is dumped on municipalities.

It hasn't been determined yet if the township will stay with provincial policing. Council is examining several options, including contracting service from Brockville Police Force.

The township will also buy a new \$150,000 fire tanker. The money for the purchase will come from reserves.

The budget meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 30 at 7 p.m.

Recorder & Times - July 23 1998

# Augusta homeowners will likely face hefty tax hike

V.F. - AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP

NICK GARDINER  
Staff Writer

AUGUSTA TWP. LIBRARY

— Despite a reduction of more than \$300,000 in expenditures, Augusta Township could face an almost 10 per cent increase in their tax bill

At the recent budget meeting for Thursday, council members saw council members approve a \$100,000 cut in projected expenditures, bringing the anticipated tax increase down from about 11 per cent

to about 10 per cent. Township chief administrative officer White advised the figure will change slightly depending on additional information to be received from the United Counties Ministry of Education.

However, he told council members Thursday the counties' tax increase should be almost equalled by a decline in the education tax and he's not expecting much of a variance when those figures are factored in.

Council may still try to do a little fine-tuning as well before the final budget is determined before the end of the month.

White said a provincially mandated decrease in industrial taxes has pushed more of the tax burden on residential property owners.

Augusta lost six per cent of its tax base with a reduction of about \$217,000 in the industrial levy, which will now bring \$367,100 into township coffers.

Township revenue has also dropped substantially, he said.

"The combination of the two factors pushed industrial taxes down and residential up," White said.

He said the good news is the township is now in line with the provincial objective to reduce industrial taxes.

"The provincial threshold is a ratio of 2.3 to one. That means for every \$1 raised in residential taxes there can be no more than \$2.30 raised in industrial (on the same assessment). Last year the ratio was 3.1 to one," he said.

"The good news is if we get down to 2.3 this year, next year if we have a tax increase, we can spread it over everyone in all tax categories," he said.

White said 11 Ontario municipalities, with the exception of the

high-tech driven Ottawa market, have had to deal with a significant decrease in industrial taxes.

Council approved a handful of measures Thursday to keep the residential increase below 10 per cent.

A plan to add \$50,000 to the existing \$208,000 reserve fund to begin capping the Maynard landfill site was scrapped.

White said the existing funds will be sufficient to begin the project this year and additional funds can be returned to the budget for the project next year.

As well, \$20,000 was cut from funds earmarked for reserve vehicles from the public works department and \$30,000 has been taken out of a \$90,000 payment for vehicle reserves with the fire department.

Again, White said this priority item will need to be addressed with more funds next year.

The recreation department also had its budget halved from \$20,000 to \$10,000.

White said the money can be replaced next year with savings from other departments and noted any future tax increase can be spread around all tax classes, even industrial, making them more even-handed.

"That's giving you a taste of what it can come down to," White told council.

Total expenditures for the coming fiscal year will amount to \$3,156,928 if the budget comes in as it now stands.

# Archeologists to spend week digging into Homewood's past

AUGUSTA TWP. LIBRARY

By DEANNA CLARK  
Staff Writer

MAITLAND — Archeologists from across Ontario are heading to Homewood Museum this week to begin a series of digs.

While no one is quite sure what may be found, there is a chance of finding pioneer medical instruments from the foundations of what was later used as a pig pen.

Stephanie Hussey, curator at both Homewood and Fulford Place museums, said the Ontario Heritage Foundation wants to gain more insight into the agricultural practices at the 200-year-old Homewood. In order to do this, eight archeologists have been chosen to dig around the grounds of the stone house.

"We're hoping to find the foundations of former outbuildings," Hussey said.

The house was built by Dr. Solomon Jones in 1799. Jones was one of the only doctors living in the region at the time. Future generations of the family to live in the two-storey house were also physicians, but many were also farmers, according to Hussey. Their farming practices are what the foundation would like to learn more about.

In 1904, Solomon's grandson Andrew noted the doctor's apothecary shop was still standing but was in use as a pig pen. This is one of the outbuildings Ontario archeologists are hoping to uncover

"Finding the outbuildings could give a clearer sense of how the farm was operated through the generations," Hussey said.

The archeologists arrived early today and were scheduled to start digging. They will continue working at the site for the rest of the week. An open house is scheduled for Friday, August 6,

from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and any finds will be on display. The public is invited to attend and refreshments will be served.

But Hussey said budding archeologists need not wait until Friday to visit the dig sites.

"If people want to help we have some extra trowels. The public is welcome to come in Wednesday, Thursday or Friday," she said.

For the younger enthusiasts, there will be a 'sandbox' dig.

Homewood Museum, located on County Road 2 between Maitland and Prescott, accommodated six generations of the Jones family until 1972. The late Georgian stone house combines French and English architectural influences and contains a collection of original Jones family furnishings, artifacts, and archival material dating from as early as the 1780s. The home's outbuildings and apple orchard give a unique view of a 19th century Loyalist Farm.

Solomon Jones received the land from the British Crown in 1785. Once some of the 200 acres of land had been cleared, Jones hired a Montreal stonemason to build Homewood.

For a time, Jones was the only doctor between Gananoque and Cornwall. He was often called away into the back country to treat stricken settlers, and occasionally their animals.

Reports indicate patients would keep a nervous eye of the doctor's sandlebags where he carried instruments for blood-letting and amputation. In the age of what is today called heroic medicine, a surgeon could amputate a limb "in 30 seconds and with no anesthetic other than brandy and opium."

For more information, call Hussey at 498-3003.

V.F. - Augusta Township Recorder & Times - Aug. 3 / 99

# Keep road allowances clear, says township

AUGUSTA TWP. LIBRARY

# No sense delaying reforms in policing, Augusta says

V.F. - AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP

MAYNARD (Staff) — Hunters or landowners blocking unopened road allowances can expect to have their vehicles towed away, Augusta Township council warned Tuesday.

Council announced it will call the OPP to remove vehicles parked on an unopened road allowance at the end of the Blue Church Road, north of the fourth concession.

The warning came after an annual dispute between deer hunters and a landowner flared again this week.

The battle started when Richard Ashby, a landowner at the end of the roadway, blocked hunters' access by felling some trees earlier this week.

The township, which last year gave Ashby permission to cut back the bush, stepped in and hauled away the brush.

Ashby appeared at Tuesday's meeting to ask why he had been singled out when the hunters responded by blocking his access to the roadway.

Ashby claimed he doesn't have a problem with hunters, just the damage they do to the road allowance during the wet fall season.

The family has been trying to maintain the roadway for 17 years at its own expense. But, he said, the damage caused by the hunters' vehicles each fall makes it treacherous, if not impossible, to move hay wagons on the allowance.

Reeve Adrian VanSchie said council understands the family's concerns, but that it won't tolerate either landowners or hunters blocking the roadway.

MAYNARD (Staff) — Augusta Township councillors want to bite the bullet on policing costs now rather than postpone the inevitable.

Council narrowly rejected a call Tuesday to delay the transfer of police services to municipalities that historically received free OPP coverage.

The town of Rockland was seeking the township's support for a resolution asking the province to delay invoicing municipalities so they can have more time to make the necessary financial adjustments. The town suggested the charges be implemented

over a longer period of time.

But the motion was lost on a tie vote.

Councillor Duaine McKinley said the downloading is coming and municipalities might as well get used to it.

"Let's get on with it and get it over with," he said.

The OPP estimate for policing the township next year is \$650,000.

Reeve Adrian VanSchie said council will be billed quarterly with the final payment based on the number of incidents police have to investigate.

If the number of occurrences in Augusta is lower

than the total for 1996, the township will receive a rebate. If the number is higher, the bill will increase accordingly.

"Maybe if we have law-abiding citizens, we'll get a bonus," he said.

Deputy reeve Ivan Dixon and Councillor Don Biccum supported the Rockland request.

Almost 600 municipalities that have been receiving free OPP coverage will be required to start paying January 1.

The only alternatives are for municipalities to establish their own police departments or contract the service from an adjacent municipal force.

Project helps drain farmland:

# South Nation flows freely

By **JIM MONAGHAN**  
Staff Writer

MAYNARD — The bill is in for clearing obstructions along the South Nation River and it's one the members of Augusta Township council are happy to pay.

Total cost of the project to clear debris along a 10-kilometre stretch from the Stevenson Road to just east of the municipal boundary was \$168,620.14.

That's about \$8,000 less than the price estimated two years ago, engineering consultant Phil McNeely said Tuesday.

McNeely played councillors a short video of the now free-flowing river shot from a helicopter.

It showed a meandering, but well-defined South Nation flowing across the township and through the western section of Edwardsburgh

Township to the Spencerville Dam.

The bill for the project will be split evenly between the South Nation River Conservation Authority, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the township, which designated the clogged section of waterway a municipal drain in order to receive provincial assistance and skirt a controversy over dredging.

The sluggish sections of the river have caused water levels to rise over time, flooding valuable agricultural land and stands of timber.

But previous attempts to tackle the problem have been stymied by provincial agencies intent on preserving Ontario's vanishing wetlands.

A houseboat customized into a kind of water-borne backhoe did the work by floating downstream and removing the blockages as it

went.

Although constrained by strict environmental guidelines to protect fish and wildlife habitats, the elimination of the obstructions lowered water levels without affecting water quality, McNeely reported.

He said managing the beaver along the South Nation will be a key to its continued flow.

The municipality has contracted trapper Darcy Alkerton to remove the animals when they become a nuisance.

Riverfront landowner John McCrea applauded the project but questioned why the machine continued removing debris along a short stretch across the Edwardsburgh boundary.

He said the extra work dropped water levels another eight inches, which could be crucial in future years.

"My worry is if we have a

dry year, it will all drain away."

Councillors said it was necessary to remove the final impediments and they assured McCrea there's still plenty of water upstream.

"You don't go that far and leave the plug in the tub," said Councillor George Vail.

McNeely said regeneration of river grasses and water lilies will ensure the watercourse doesn't dry out.

According to Councillor Duaine McKinley, a strong supporter of the project since its inception, adjacent landowners are now considering cleaning ditches and improving drainage on their own property because of the improved flow on the South Nation.

"Before this, it was money wasted," he said.

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Sept 3/97  
V.F. - Augusta Township

# Swerdfiger tackles VanSchie

Recorder & Times

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Augusta Township

By JIM MONAGHAN  
Staff Writer

OCT 14/97

tion you like.

MAYNARD — Dwain Swerdfiger is not the type of guy to stand around on the sidelines during a municipal election.

He's run three times for council and lost each time. In 1994, he finished last among six candidates.

But he has not only thrown his hat in the ring for this upcoming contest in Augusta Township, he's running for reeve against popular incumbent Adrian VanSchie.

Swerdfiger, who lives a few miles north of here, admits he's not unhappy with the current council.

"I like a good race," he explains. "Every three years I put my name in and see what develops."

In an odd move for a novice politician, the auctioneer and furniture mover declined to accept the offer of a platform for his views.

Reluctant to explain his qualifications or motive for running, he pointed to the possibility of an all-candidates' debate as a forum for his opinions on municipal governance.

"Then is the time to ask any ques-

Swerdfiger, a past president of the Brockville Lions Club and past Grand with Brock Lodge 9, did identify amalgamation as the issue foremost in the minds of voters.

The township council rejected mergers last year, deciding the municipality had the population and resources to stand on its own.

Swerdfiger says residents could make their feelings known through debates and referendums.

"I would leave it up for the people of Augusta to make that decision."

Grenville County  
Business News  
Feb. '97

## BizBriefs

V.F. - Augusta Township  
AUGUSTA TWP. LIBRARY  
Channel improvements

AUGUSTA — Township council gave final reading to a bylaw last week that paves the way for long awaited improvements to the South Nation River. The bylaw passed at council's regular monthly meeting turns the river into a municipal drain and allows for cleaning of a 11-kilometre stretch between Lords Mills and the Edwardsburgh Township border. The cost of the \$172,000 project will be evenly split between the township, the South Nation River Conservation Authority and the provincial Ministry of Agriculture. Work is set to begin in July. The municipality will maintain the drain and hire a trapper to control the beaver in the area, blamed for contributing to the plugging of the river over the past 50 years. Although the drain is expected to be maintenance free for many years, 50 private landowners in the area will cover the cost of any work required in the future.

# TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA <sup>V.F.</sup>

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

### AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1996

Recorder Times - Mar 13/97  
V.F. - ~~Business~~

ASSETS	1996	1995
Unrestricted		
Cash	\$729,214	\$186,159
Taxes receivable	307,080	388,795
User charges receivable	87,759	63,915
Accounts receivable	11,381	206,484
Inventory	2,029	2,152
Other current assets	4,759	3,134
	<u>1,142,222</u>	<u>850,639</u>
RESTRICTED		
Cash	371,551	356,329
Accounts receivable	14,669	14,669
	<u>386,220</u>	<u>370,998</u>
	<u>\$1,528,442</u>	<u>\$1,221,637</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$149,087	\$199,368
FUND BALANCES AT THE END OF THE YEAR		
To be used to offset taxation or user charges (Note 7)	33,472	8,898
Reserves (Note 8)	959,663	642,373
Reserve funds (Note 8)	<u>386,220</u>	<u>370,998</u>
	<u>\$1,528,442</u>	<u>\$1,221,637</u>

The accompanying Notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

#### TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS - REVENUE FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1996

SOURCES OF FINANCING	Budget 1996	Actual 1996	Actual 1995
<b>Taxation and user charges (Note 1(a)(III))</b>			
Residential and farm taxation	\$3,454,533	\$3,466,997	\$3,381,641
Commercial, industrial and business taxation	\$2,922,195	2,928,002	2,885,234
Taxation from other governments	6,700	10,671	6,322
User charges	344,000	320,064	433,945
Deduct: amounts received or receivable for county and school boards	<u>(5,257,454)</u>	<u>(5,275,618)</u>	<u>(5,165,066)</u>
	<u>1,469,974</u>	<u>1,450,116</u>	<u>1,542,076</u>
<b>Grants</b>			
Province of Ontario	700,165	492,410	937,611
<b>Other</b>			
Donations	-	-	2,562
Investment income	175,000	149,091	199,386
	<u>175,000</u>	<u>149,091</u>	<u>201,948</u>
Total funds raised during the year	<u>2,345,139</u>	<u>2,091,617</u>	<u>2,681,635</u>
<b>MUNICIPAL FUND BALANCES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR</b>			
To be used to offset taxation of user charges (Note 7)	8,898	8,898	99,330
Reserves and Reserve Funds (Note 8)	<u>1,013,371</u>	<u>1,013,371</u>	<u>1,239,940</u>
	<u>1,022,269</u>	<u>1,022,269</u>	<u>1,339,270</u>

Expenditures		
Transferred to capital fund	14	
Transferred to revenue fund	15	123
Charges for long term liabilities - principal and interest	15	
	63	
	20	
	21	
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Balance at end of year for:</b>		
Reserves	23	959,663
Reserve funds	24	386,220
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1,345,883</b>
Analysed as follows:		
Working funds	26	103,000
Contingencies	27	128,856
Ontario Clean Water Agency funds for renewals, etc.		
- sewer	28	
- water	29	
Replacement of equipment	30	
Sick leave	31	54,657
Insurance	32	
Workers' compensation	33	
Capital expenditure-general administration	34	
- roads	35	223,265
- sanitary and storm sewers	36	
- parks and recreation	64	
- library	65	
- other cultural	65	
- water	38	
- transit	39	
- housing	40	
- industrial development	41	
- other and unspecified	42	785,990
Development Charges Act	68	
Lot levies and subdivider contributions	44	41,640
Recreational land (the Planning Act)	46	6,446
Parking revenues	45	
Debtenture debt	47	
Exchange rate stabilization	48	
Waterworks current purpose	49	
Transit current purposes	50	
Library current purposes	51	
Inventory	52	2,029
	53	
	54	
	55	
	56	
	57	
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1,345,883</b>

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#### TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA ANALYSIS OF CAPITAL OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1996

Unfinanced capital outlay (Unexpended Capital Financing) at the beginning of the year	1	
Sources of Financing		
Contributions from own funds		

# Augusta wants talks on sharing services

MAYNARD (Staff) — Augusta council will discuss sharing municipal services with Prescott.

Reeve Adrian VanSchie said council has accepted an offer from Prescott Mayor Doug Hayes to enter negotiations. The offer was prompted by a recent counties study suggesting further amalgamation in Leeds and Grenville could save area taxpayers up to \$6 million.

"If it makes sense and will save the taxpayers of Augusta money, we felt we should sit down and listen to the arguments for it," VanSchie said Tuesday night.

This is the second time in a year council will sit down to discuss shared services with Prescott. Similar talks failed this past fall among representatives

of Cardinal, Edwardsburgh, Augusta and Prescott councils.

However, VanSchie noted discussions with Prescott during those negotiations were positive, leading council to take another crack.

Augusta is interested in sharing administrative services, VanSchie said. One area both municipalities could save would be through a combined mailing of tax bills.

The reeve would also like to see a shared roads department, as well as access to Prescott's sewage treatment plant.

"We want to utilize some of the capacity of the plant. For instance, we could tap into the system and serve Riverview Heights."

Council hopes the talks can begin soon.

V.F. Augusta Township

Recorder & Times - Jan. 13, 1999



## City and district

*A dozen new jobs expected:*

# DuPont to build

*New facility at Maitland to be first in the world, say officials from the multinational chemical company*

By **HOLLY LAKE**  
Staff Writer

MAITLAND — DuPont announced Thursday that it will build a new nylon recycling technology and demonstration plant at its Maitland facility. When completed, the centre will be the only one of its kind in the world.

The plant will then have the capability to recycle two of the most common nylons used in manufacturing back to their original components. The recycled nylon will then be able to be used in the manufacturing of carpets and automotive parts.

"This is a new step in the arena of recycled technologies," said Diane Richard, DuPont's global business manager for nylon recycling technology.

"We currently do not have a technology that will take nylon back to its initial ingredients. The significance of that is that it can be used in absolutely any application that nylon is used for, so it's complete closed-loop recycling"

Construction of the site will begin in the fall of this year and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2000.

"It's a unique technology and it's in the developmental stage right now," said Stu Maloney, Maitland site manager. "The year following the construction will be a demonstrating time, so we expect to make adjustments to the technology as we discover its capacity."

The ground-breaking chemical recycling technology was developed at DuPont's Kingston facility. The Maitland plant was chosen for the centre because of its proximity to Kingston and because of the specialized skills of staff. Operators here are trained in process safety management, which is critical to the operation

of the new technology.

The project is part of the company's commitment to innovation in recycling.

"We are the first to take this step in chemical recycling," said Richard.

"There's no question that there has been a demand for this type of technology for quite some time in the industry. Most interested in this is the automotive industry for parts."

She said that with the move to have more plastic in cars to make them lightweight, there has been a tremendous amount of interest in what DuPont is doing.

There is also a realization within the industry that everything cannot be thrown in landfills.

"In the commercial flooring business, their market is very conscious of the amount of carpet going into landfill and they are trying to find technology solutions to get it out of landfills and back to use in new carpet," she said.

The construction of the facility is expected to create 30 to 40 new jobs and once completed, Maloney said there would be about 12 new jobs created over the next year. He declined to say how much the new centre will cost to build.

As for expanding the technology to products other than nylon, he said that is a matter of wait and see.

"If we get to a viable commercial level down the road, but first we have to prove the technology. Then of course it opens up opportunities for significant investment and job opportunities."

Richard agreed.

"We're hoping to demonstrate that this technology is feasible and that the business is feasible as well. If this is successful, we'd be looking to scale up in other locations or here."

U.F. Augusta to review procedures:

Recorder & Times  
Jan. 28/78

# Township learned from storm

By MARK CALDER  
Staff Writer

MAYNARD — Now that the ice storm is over, it's time to prepare for the next crisis, Augusta Reeve Adrian VanSchie said Monday.

In the coming weeks, council will review its storm relief efforts to find ways to improve its emergency plan. The post-mortem is intended after the township ended its state of emergency Monday.

While VanSchie is proud of

his township's response, the crisis revealed several shortcomings in Augusta's emergency plan. VanSchie has some recommendations, although the final decision is up to council.

Perhaps the most critical problem early on was a lack of phone lines at the township building and both fire halls. VanSchie wants at least three lines installed at each location to deal with the problem.

Permanent generators must also be installed at both fire

halls to provide power during the next blackout. Service agreements should be signed to ensure generators are available at short notice for emergency shelters.

"The setting up of emergency headquarters and having enough phone lines available, plus generators at key locations, is critical," VanSchie said. "Communications plays a major role in responding to any disaster."

The problem was magnified by the fact cellular phones

wouldn't work at the North Augusta fire hall. Emergency workers must meet with Bell officials to see what can be done about the "dead zone."

The township must improve radio communications as well. Officials discovered radios used by Augusta staff wouldn't work with those used by military troops sent to help here. Military commanders were given township radios to cope with the problem, but a better solution is needed.

# Augusta ratepayers hit hard

V.F. - Augusta Township

Recorder & Times Aug 11/98

## Average homeowners' tax bill will increase by 12 per cent

By MARK CALDER  
Staff Writer

MAYNARD — Municipal spending in Augusta township will increase 67 per cent this year, with the average tax bill rising 12 per cent, according to the budget passed by council Monday night.

Township spending has been set at \$3.76 million, up from \$2.24 million last year.

In addition, Augusta ratepayers will contribute \$1,638,163 to the counties this year and \$3,404,906 towards education.

A taxpayer with a home assessed at \$100,000 will pay \$1,151.94, up from \$1,146.47 last year. That bill will be split with \$344.43 going to the township, \$347.88 to the counties and \$459.62 to education.

Reeve Adrian VanSchie cautioned that even though taxes on a \$100,000 assessment will rise only slightly, reassessment will have a major impact.

Due to an increase in the value of assessments in the township, the average tax increase will be about 12 per cent, he said. Some homeowners will see increases as high as 40 per cent.

Taxpayers can figure out their individual bills by multiplying their assessments by their tax rates. Rates for 1997 are: .01151942, residential/farm

class; .01978951, multi-residential; .03041803, commercial occupied; .021292, commercial vacant units and commercial vacant lands; .05866455, industrial occupied; .03813216, industrial vacant units and industrial vacant lands; .09082522, large industrial occupied; .05901471, large industrial vacant; .03404333, pipelines; .00287985 farmland and managed forests; .00046775, North Augusta, residential and farm class; .00069784, North Augusta, commercial occupied; .00048847, North Augusta, commercial vacant units; .00011694, North Augusta, farmland class; .00022591, Riverview Heights, residential/farm class; .00033704, Riverview Heights, commercial occupied; .00023592, Riverview Heights, commercial vacant.

VanSchie said the spending hike was unavoidable, largely due to \$237,000 in OPP policing costs dumped on the township, after grants, and the need to repair roads and buy new equipment.

"It was one of the hardest budget years I've ever experienced on council," VanSchie said Monday night.

"I would suggest there was nothing else we could have done to reduce the increase. For instance, none of the capital expenditures for road repairs could be deferred until next year without considerable damage and more money being spent next year."

Capital costs this year rise to \$602,500, up from \$417,000 last year. Major projects include repair of three kilometres on the Charleville Road, at a cost of about \$200,000, and \$150,000 in repairs to a section of the Branch Road.

The township will also spend about \$175,000 for a new tandem truck for the roads crew, and \$150,000 to buy the fire department a new tanker. The money for both trucks will come from reserves.

About \$1.65 million of this year's budget will be raised through the municipal levy. Another \$1.43 million will come from government grants, \$658,838 through user and licence fees, and \$8,700 through payments in lieu.

The largest portion of the budget goes to the roads department at \$1.44 million, including \$191,000 for overhead, \$350,000 for road construction, \$207,200 for winter control, and \$252,500 for equipment and housing.

Administration will cost the township \$222,825. This figure includes about \$89,000 in salaries and wages, \$25,000 for insurance, \$10,000 in legal fees, and \$17,000 in auditor's fees.

Waste disposal will cost the township \$376,032, while the protective inspections department has a budget of \$74,173.

AUGUSTA TWP LIBRARY

# Augusta and OPP sign five-year deal

By ANNE VIS  
Staff Writer

AUGUSTA TWP. LIBRARY

police.

MAYNARD — Augusta Township signed a contract with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Monday which municipal officials say will give them greater control over policing within their borders.

The five-year agreement, finalized during a council meeting here Monday evening, will cost the township about \$540,000 per year.

In return, the OPP will devote 5.6 constables to covering the township, as well as the majority of OPP Sergeant Tom Bergstrom's time. Bergstrom will still work out of the Prescott detachment, but regularly patrol the township.

In addition, the township will have its own police services board, which will provide direction to the OPP on local needs. Bergstrom will act as a liaison to that group.

While the OPP has always provided service to rural municipalities like Augusta, the provincial government now requires the townships to pay for policing the way urban municipalities do.

Augusta considered various options for policing over the past two years or more, including hiring the Town of Prescott's police department or signing up for a countieswide force supplied by the OPP, said Reeve Adrian VanSchie.

Instead, it chose to sign a contract on its own with the provincial

With a countieswide force, the township's policing costs would have been another \$300,000 per year. That's because, under the counties arrangement, the bill would have been calculated based on total assessment in the township. On its own, Augusta is billed based on the cost per household.

"Augusta assessment, the way it is, we would be subsidizing other municipalities for their policing," VanSchie said.

The municipality could have maintained the status quo and simply been billed by the OPP for services they provide, but this way the township will get a greater say over policing through the police services board, VanSchie said.

Township residents won't likely notice much of a difference in the level of police service, said Bergstrom, who attended the council meeting along with Staff Sergeant Brent Hill.

But the OPP will have to keep up-to-date statistics on the police services it provides the township so it will be more accountable.

"If there's a shortfall (in service) then the township receives a rebate on their policing," he said.

As well, the \$540,000 is the maximum the OPP will charge the municipality even if the township experiences a sudden crime spree.

V.F.  
Augusta  
Township

Recorder & Times - Nov. 9/99

# Township probing questions about soil

AUGUSTA TWP LIBRARY

By NICK GARDINER  
Staff Writer

MAYNARD — Was soil contaminated with PCBs trucked in this summer from Brockville to the Maynard landfill site?

The question, raised by Augusta Township watchdog Duaine McKinley at Monday's council meeting, will take at least a couple of days to answer, said waste management committee chairman Doug Barton.

Barton said he'll meet today with building supervisor and bylaw enforcement officer Greg Trizisky, who oversees operation of the landfill site, to determine what material has been brought into the site and if proper permits and procedures were in place.

Barton, who has missed some council business after undergoing ear surgery early this summer, said he was unaware of the issue raised by McKinley but noted a certificate signifying the soil was contaminant-free is required before it would be allowed at the landfill site.

Other council members seemed equally unaware of the situation raised by McKinley, who said his information came from a number of sources he didn't identify.

McKinley also stated the township is not authorized to take in waste from outside Augusta.

"People I've talked with say it's contaminated and I don't know if it is or not," he said, asking if the

proper documentation was available.

"This is a very sticky situation. If it is contaminated with PCBs it's going to be a very expensive proposition to remove it," he said.

Barton acknowledged the township had accepted 60 to 70 truckloads of soil contaminated with oil hydrocarbons that was removed from the Maitland Terminals property owned by fuel distributor Ultramar.

That contaminant evaporates and the township would have eagerly accepted more to prepare the site for closure this fall but Ultramar got a better deal and trucked the remainder of the material to a landfill in South Dundas.

In an interview after the meeting, McKinley said he was aware of the soil deposited from the Ultramar site but was surprised to see how little council seemed to know about the material coming from Brockville.

"It appears council is not getting all the information it should. There doesn't seem to be any accountability," McKinley said.

He said he was told by Trizisky that certificates were in place for the soil from Brockville but wondered why nobody on council had that information.

The landfill site is being groomed for closure from October 15 to 21. Soil is needed to help smooth out the top before it is covered with clay.

Brockville R&T  
U.F. - AUGUSTA  
TOWNSHIP

# Augusta passes new dog bylaw

*Recorder + Times*

*V.F. - Augusta Township  
April 13/99*

By RONALD ZAJAC  
Staff Writer

MAYNARD — Owners of aggressive dogs in Augusta Township must tie up or muzzle their animals under stricter animal control regulations adopted by the township council Monday.

The new provisions, passed following a controversy over vicious dogs in North Augusta, require owners of vicious dogs to keep their pets in an enclosed area or fenced yard, or tied with a chain or other restraining device when the animal is on their property.

When they're off their property with their aggressive pets, owners have to leash and muzzle the animals to prevent them from biting, chasing or attacking another person or domestic animal. People under 16 can't walk aggressive dogs.

The bylaw defines an "aggressive animal" as one that has bitten a person or domestic animal "without provocation."

That means Pudge, the North Augusta German shepherd that landed its owner in court last month after residents complained it was terrorizing the neighbourhood, doesn't yet qualify as an aggressive dog.

"It's got to bite after this bylaw takes place," Brent Caskenette, Augusta's bylaw enforcement officer, told council members.

That might be unfortunate, but staff is limited by the requirements of Ontario's Municipal Act, he said.

A justice of the peace last month ordered Pudge's owner, Gail Hill, to chain and place a choke collar on the animal, or risk a \$500 fine and a recommendation to have it destroyed.

It was a precedent-setting ruling, since court orders of that kind aren't usually issued under the Dog

Owner's Liability Act until an animal has bitten someone. Area Ontario Provincial Police officers served Hill with a court summons because so many villagers were scared of her dog.

North Augusta residents say Hill's dog isn't the only one that has been terrorizing people. Several people, including children, have been bitten by loose dogs and one woman had to be hospitalized for five days after a dog ripped open the back of her thigh as she cycled along a road outside the village.

Owners of animals deemed aggressive in Augusta Township will see their dog tag fees rise from \$10 to \$100, or \$125 if they don't pay up on deadline. The extra money will help pay for the added enforcement vicious dogs require.

Township officers have the right to seize dogs found running at large or contravening the bylaw and put them in the kennel the township contracts as its pound. Owners must pay pound fees to get their dogs back, as well as municipal release fees of \$40 on the first offence, \$80 on the second offence and \$120 every other time.

Workers at the pound can sell or dispose of an animal if its owner doesn't claim it on time.

People whose pets are deemed aggressive can call for a council hearing to get exemptions from all or parts of the bylaw.

Deputy Reeve John McCrea worried vindictive neighbours might make false allegations to get people's pets restrained. In some cases, a dog might not be aggressive or may be protecting its owner's property.

A dog is justified in attacking an intruder, Caskenette acknowledged.

"You've got to use a little common sense in the enforcement of this, absolutely," he said.

en and Lori Veltkamp could learn quickly if their goal of operating a chip truck in North Augusta will last long. The Veltkamps received council approval to open immediately but be prepared to close down at the first complaint. A request for a minor variance to the commercial zoning is to be heard as soon as possible.

# Chip stand owners can operate provided there's no complaint

## Temporary approval granted until township deals with minor variance

By NICK GARDINER

Staff Writer

MAYNARD — Anybody who wants a box of hot fries in North Augusta better line up fast.

Augusta Township council gave temporary approval for the operation of a chip truck in the village but is ready to send it packing at the first complaint.

Council voted 3-2 to allow Jeff and Lori Veltkamp set up a chip truck on an old gas station property on the west side of County Road 15 in the south end of the village.

But the motion from Councillor Kathleen Thur carried the rider that the business must shut down at the first complaint.

Thur said it was the best council could do considering the property needed a minor variance and the public meeting and regulation that entails.

"We're giving you a gift of four to six weeks," she said.

The Veltkamps aren't so sure.

Jeff Veltkamp said the wheels should have been turning as soon

as he approached township building inspector and bylaw officer Greg Trizisky with his request a month ago.

He said Thur was trying to be supportive but the rest of council could have helped by endorsing her request that a complaint against the business must be 'legitimate.'

"We have a petition with 160 signatures. If two people complain they overrule 160 other people," he said.

"If 30 people complain that there's garbage everywhere and people are hanging out drinking, that's legitimate. But that won't happen," he said.

Trizisky's contention that the property isn't zoned commercial was strongly challenged by landowner Betty Perrin.

"I've been paying taxes at a commercial rate and if it isn't I want a rebate," she said.

Trizisky said a second problem is the township bylaw governing restaurants — there is no bylaw for concession stands — requires they be set back 150 feet from the road,

about 50 feet longer than available on Perrin's property.

But he indicated he would have no objection to a minor variance application from the Veltkamps.

Jeff Veltkamp said there's no time to wait while the six- to eight-week process takes its course, eating into the prime season for a chip truck.

Last on the agenda's list of eight delegations, Veltkamp received vocal backing from a sometimes surly crowd of about 30 people already disenchanted with council's inaction on water concerns in Maitland and an ongoing labour dispute with dismissed roads employee Richard Stephenson.

Veltkamp said he appreciated the crowd's support but doesn't know how it can help him when it will take only one frivolous complaint to shut him down.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we're shut down in two days. Hopefully we won't but if it comes to that I'm prepared to keep battling until we have it set up," he said.