

# Township of Seguin



## Spring 2006 Newsletter

R.R. # 2, 5 Humphrey Drive, Parry Sound, Ontario P2A 2W8  
Telephone : (705) 732-4300 Toll Free: 877-473-4846 Fax: (705) 732-6347  
Website: [www.twp.seguin.on.ca](http://www.twp.seguin.on.ca), Email: [info@twp.seguin.on.ca](mailto:info@twp.seguin.on.ca)

### Letter from Mayor David Conn

#### *Special points of interest:*

- **Seguin Township Official Plan**
- **Home Insurance Rebate**
- **Dog Tags**
- **Summer Ice Rental**
- **Smoke Alarms**
- **The Seguin Bruins**
- **CRA/SRA Applications**

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**Official Plan (OP)**-I'm delighted to advise you that the OP was approved by Council in January '06. This is the culmination of two years of intense work by Council, Staff, Meridian Consultants, and, most important of all, a very talented and committed OP Committee made up of Seguin residents. The OP was developed via an extensive public consultation process and, without question, it reflects an "environment first" focus. I'm very proud of our OP and hope you will be as well.



**Financial Management**-For the second consecutive year we delivered a budget surplus in 2005. This surplus is a result of excellent cost control by Staff and some unanticipated revenue from land sales and government grants.

**Municipal Budget in '06**-Our '06 municipal budget will not be passed until early February. However, our preliminary budget calls for only a 2% increase in '06 tax revenue. I anticipate that this probable 2% tax revenue increase will rank among the lowest of all Ontario municipalities.

**Municipal Taxes in '06**-Once again, MPAC generated strange and inconsistent results with the Current Value Assessment (CVA) in Seguin Township. In past years, CVA in the south end of the Township increased at a much higher rate than in the north. However, the most recent CVA (as of Jan. 1/05) reversed this trend with the highest CVA increases occurring in the north

of the Township. The average CVA of residential properties increased 32.37%. Based on a probable tax revenue increase of 2% any resident whose CVA increased by more than 28.71% will pay higher municipal taxes in '06.

**Education Taxes in '06**-We have not yet received the '06 education tax rate from the Provincial Government. Our best guess is a rate reduction of about 12%. This means that Seguin residents with a CVA increase of more than 14% will pay higher education taxes in '06.

**Benchmarking**-We are continuing the process of benchmarking our service delivery against similar municipalities. Roads were benchmarked in the first half of '05 & the information extracted from this exercise was translated into operating savings in '05. Building and Fire Services were benchmarked in late '05 and revealed opportunities that will be reflected in our '06 Budget. Planning and Arena services will be benchmarked in early '06. The benchmarking exercise is being led by resident Bruce Gibbon, working in close cooperation with staff.

**Mayor vs. Reeve**-You may wonder why you are receiving a message from the Mayor instead of the Reeve. This is because Council decided that the title "Mayor" more clearly described the head of council role than the title of "Reeve". Personally, the title is immaterial to me. I did not participate in the vote on this issue which passed 6-0.

## Winter Control Operations

After an extensive process review, the Township has revised and updated its winter control operations. **Plow routing** has been adjusted and improved. Sand and salt usage is better regulated and monitored with **'spot' sanding** now being done where possible. The use of road temperature sensors



and internet weather information assists Township staff with the best available information and the best decision making opportunities. **Lower costs** in concert with improved levels of service can be expected for this winter season.

## Traffic Control

The Township also asks residents and visitors to be aware of the new traffic control by-law which regulates parking. From November 1st to April 15th, in order to facilitate the process of snow removal, no person shall park any vehicle on a municipal road in a

manner that directly or indirectly interferes with winter control operations. Vehicles affecting winter operations **will be ticketed and may be towed.**

Our Roads Department and Snowplow operators thank you for your cooperation.

## Rose Point Road Trail Bridges

The Rose Point Road Trail is a 4.5 km section of the **Park to Park** trail that runs between Rose Point Road and James Bay Junction Road, and is owned by Seguin Township. The three bridges located along this trail section were closed in the summer of 2005 due to structural concerns. With efforts from the **Parry Sound Snowmobiling District, Park to Park Association, the Rose**

**Point Trail Committee** and Seguin Township, the bridges were successfully opened for the **winter snowmobiling season** with some minor remedial repairs. The trail may be closed again in the spring until a determination is made on how to **repair or upgrade the bridges** for further use.

## Planning Department

On January 9, 2006 Township Council passed a By-law adopting the first Seguin Township Official Plan. The Official Plan has now been forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval.

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With this project, there will be a questionnaire mailed out to all property owners asking questions with respect to boathouses. Your response to this **questionnaire** is greatly appreciated and will assist in developing zoning standards on boathouses. Two Open Houses and a Public Meeting will be held to also re-

ceive the Public's comments with respect to the proposed Zoning By-law. The dates will be February 18, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the Orrville Community Centre, March 25, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Rosseau Memorial Hall and May 20, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Orrville Community Centre. Please see the insert in this newsletter for details.

The ship has prepared new Comprehensive By-law. The township has prepared new Comprehensive By-law. The township has prepared new Comprehensive By-law.

Other Planning news is the soon to be completed web based Geographic Information System **(GIS)** which will allow property owners to view mapping information on their properties over the internet.

Last year was a busy year for development applications with 201 applications being processed as compared to 151 in 2004. This trend is expected to continue. There has been **streamlining** of the processing in order to provide a higher level of service to the customer.

## COMRIF (Canada Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund)

In 2005, Seguin Township received notification of **funding approval** for the replacement of three bridges/structures through the COMRIF program. The structures include the Tally Ho-Swords Road culvert located just south of Hwy #518 (to be replaced in 2006), and two bridges on Turtle Lake

Road, one each to be replaced in 2007 and 2008. The total cost of the three structure replacements is \$1,110,000 with **funding equally shared** between the Federal Government, the Provincial Government and Seguin Township.

## House Insurance Rebate



Many Seguin residents have achieved insurance rebates of up to 50% in return for the **Tanker Shuttle Accreditation** achieved by the Fire Department in 2003. Residents who have not contacted their insurance carrier are encouraged to request information on rebates that they could now receive. When contacting your insurance carrier be sure to know the distance and address of the Fire Hall closest to your

residence as well as the maintenance level of the road on which you are located.

The discount you receive is contingent on your insurance company's policies and your proximity to the Fire Hall. You will not receive the discount unless you ask for it!! To get a copy of the **Tanker Shuttle Accreditation** contact the Seguin Municipal Office. It can also be downloaded from our web site.

## Check Your Smoke Alarms

Smoke Alarms are your best defense against the loss of life in a house fire. Please check your smoke alarms regularly and change the battery twice a



year. If you need assistance in checking your alarms contact Seguin Fire Services and we will be happy to assist.

## Corporate Services—Treasury

In the fall of 2005, all property owners should have received notification from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) of the new valuation of their property as of January 1, 2005, which will be in effect for the 2006 taxation year.

The **enclosed interim tax billing** is 50% of your 2005 total taxes, which were based on the previous assessment. The final billing will be mailed out in May or June, and will be based on the new assessment and the 2006 tax rate, which will be set once the 2006 budget is passed by Council.

**Preliminary 2006 budget** discussions among staff, Council and the Finance Committee have already taken place, and staff members are working diligently to try and realize savings on operating budgets for 2006. Significant uncontrollable increases in expenses such as insurance, fuel, WSIB, OMERS and hydro will have to be accommodated in the budget. The budget process will be completed once the 2005 actual results have been audited and the



2006 levies from external organizations have been finalized.



**Did you know** that you can pay your Seguin cheque or debit in office during regular office hours, through the mail by cheque or through telephone or internet banking?



## Concession/Shore Road Allowances

In September 2005 Council passed By-law 2005-123 which established a new procedure for the closing of unopened road allowances. This procedure allows for full year round processing of these applications as well as an 18 month time-line for finalization.

If you have any outstanding applications, you are encouraged to make sure they are finalized as expeditiously as possible.

Seguin Township contact person for these applications is Julia Bissonette ext.225.

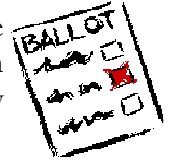
## Voter's Lists—2006 Municipal Enumeration

Towards the end of April, beginning of May, of this year property owners and tenants will receive in the mail, a Municipal Enumeration Form (MEF) from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).

[www.twp.seguin.on.ca](http://www.twp.seguin.on.ca)

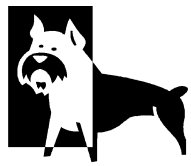
Seguin Township encourages all recipients of MEF's to carefully review their occupant information

and confirm or make corrections to the questionnaire as appropriate, then return it in the pre-paid envelope to MPAC by the June 1st deadline.



Your assistance and submission of corrected information will assist in improving the accuracy of the **Voter's List** for the **2006 Municipal Election**.

## Community Services



Seguin Township By-law 2002-56 requires that all dogs have a valid dog tag affixed to them at all times. Don't forget to pick up your **Dog Tags** before April 1st. After April 1st the tag price goes up. Proof of rabies vaccination within the last 24 months is necessary.

Contact the Facilities Department at 705-732-4313 to book for **Summer Ice Rentals**.

The Facilities Department would like to wish the **Seguin Bruins** the best of luck in their first play off series!

Watch the website for details about the **Swim Program** for 2006!



## Cemetery Services

Donations in lieu of flowers are gratefully accepted by the Township of Seguin Cemetery Committee to assist with the care and maintenance of Township of Seguin Cemeteries. **Donations** can be made through

Logan's, or Torrance's Funeral Homes in Parry Sound or at the Township Office. Upon request, a tax receipt will be issued by the Township.

## Village of Rosseau Celebrates its 80th Anniversary!

The **80 and 80 Campaign**, organized under the Rosseau Improvement Association, is a grass roots campaign to raise \$80,000 for furnishings and appointments for the newly renovated Rosseau Memorial Hall and to provide interim funding for the Rosseau Nursing Station. This Campaign will be held in conjunction with the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the Village of Rosseau.

In order to mobilize our community's efforts in a similar fashion to the original 1924 building project of the Rosseau Memorial Hall, service groups, local organizations, businesses and interested individuals are encouraged to participate in celebration activities and fundraising efforts. To date the Campaign is 1/4 of its way to the \$80,000 goal. Check the Township's website for more information.

### *Council for the Corporation of the Township of Seguin*

**Mayor David Conn**—19 Cheers Lane, R. R. #3, Parry Sound, Ontario P2A 2W9 (705) 732-2209

**Ward 1-Councillor Bill Jameson**, 409 Highway #518, R. R. #3, Parry Sound, Ontario P2A 2W9 (705) 746-5004

**Ward 2-Councillor Doug Graham**, P. O. Box 518, Parry Sound, Ontario P2A 2X5 (705) 746-5295

**Ward 3-Councillor Lorne Campbell**, Box 61, R. R. #2, Parry Sound, Ontario P2A 2W8 (705) 732-1328

**Ward 4-Councillor Doug Sainsbury**, P. O. Box 263, MacTier, Ontario P0C 1H0 (705) 375-2076

**Ward 5-Councillor Everett Jacklin**, 104 Turtle Lake Rd., R. R. #1, Rosseau, Ontario P0C 1J0 (705) 732-2316

**Ward 6-Councillor Jim Swift**, P. O. Box 160, Rosseau, Ontario P0C 1J0 (705) 732-2461