



# Lakefield Herald

Vol. 23, No. 12

Friday, March 19, 2010

\$1.00 (GST inc.)

Canadian Publications Agreement No. 40727545

www.lakefieldherald.com

*Covering the East Kawarthas*

## Douro-Dummer budget increase set at 3.54%

BY TERRY MCQUITTY

Douro-Dummer tabled the final numbers for the 2010 budget at a public meeting held on Tuesday evening.

The estimated levy requirement for 2010 is \$3,293,503 which is a \$112,506 increase over 2009.

The increase amounts to 3.54 per cent which includes a .5 per cent assessment increase due to growth.

The Township passed a decrease in the residential tax rate by 2.64 per cent however, the average residential assessment value increased by six per cent.

Property assessments within the township went up overall, however of the assessments, 1,540 increased in assessment value while 2,560 decreased in assessment value.

The segment of properties that had the highest rate of increase were farmland or agriculture, not waterfront.

The major capital items in the 2010 budget include an ice resurfacer for the Douro Community Centre valued at \$70,000;

road upgrades valued at \$100,000; a new truck for the Fire Chief at a cost of \$35,000; a wharf feasibility study which will run \$65,000; and computers and laptops for the office which will cost \$35,000.

These items were included in the 25 year forecast and will be funded from reserves.

Douro-Dummer received substantial funding for projects in 2010 including the addition to the municipal building and the reconstruction of University Road, for which the township must supply one third of the money. Due to these projects and others, money must be taken from reserves.

The unaudited balance for reserves as of December 31, 2009 was \$4,022,419.49 and the estimated balance for December 31, 2010 is \$3,145,565.73.

Treasurer Darlene Hefernan stated that this year more funds will be required from reserves due to funding obligations, however more money will be directed to reserves in years to come.

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## Douro-Dummer Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw nearing completion

BY TERRY MCQUITTY

Douro-Dummer council is one step closer to passing its Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw.

The Township has been working on the document since the fall of 2007, but has experienced several

delays and changes in direction.

Text changes requested by ORCA and the Birch Cliff Property Owner's Association were reviewed and a number of adjustments have been made.

One example of the



Anita Locke

## Sugartime

Roberta Cassol, Jenny Riley, Erin McLean, Ben McLean and Hein Snyman check out a sap bucket at McLean Berry Farm. Maplefest runs the next three weekends with plenty of great events and entertainment being offered.

## Buckhorn Maplefest starts Saturday

BY ANITA LOCKE

Folks at McLean Berry Farm are gearing up for the 17th Annual Maplefest.

The event is being held for the next three weekends, beginning Saturday,

March 20.

The farm has tapped 960 trees this year. Each tapping, in a good year, yields about a litre of maple syrup.

Guests will enjoy the walking tour of the sugar bush, horsedrawn hay

rides, pancake breakfast by the Lakefield Lions, syrup and sugar demonstrations, maple baking, toffee on snow (if snow is available), live music, pioneer display, special daily events, giant straw pile, snow cannon (if

snow is available), 'Kids Corral', tree tapping, children's activities at the fire and other events.

Also available this year will be the option of waffles with fruit and maple syrup.

Featured entertainment this year includes The Rhubarb Boys (Saturday, March 20 and 27), two members of the Toasted Western Swing Band from the Niagara region (March 21), The Paddling Puppeteers (Sunday, March 28 and Friday, April 2), and Jay Edmonds (Saturday and Sunday, April 3 and 4).

completion and ready to present the bylaw to the public.

A tentative date of April 20 has been set for an informal open house and the date for the statutory public meeting has been set for May 18.

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