

Dufferin County gets \$7.2 M in grants

By WES KELLER
Freelance Reporter

Dufferin County got a \$5.4-million shot in the arm last Friday to help pay

for the proposed courthouse addition, along with formal confirmation of \$1.8 million for 15 additional affordable units in the 30-unit seniors com-

plex at 40 Lawrence Ave. Community Services Director Keith Palmer said in an interview Monday that the grant would bring the total of the building's affordable units to 28. "Affordable" means rent set at 80 per cent of current market rate.

The other two units may be rented at market, at affordable, or at rent geared to income.

The funding does not cover the total cost of construction. Funding for the first 13 affordable units was only about \$70,000 per unit, and the new funding is \$120,000 per unit. "You can't build for \$120,000 a unit," he said.

The seniors complex is already under construction, but the courthouse addition is at the formal drawing stage.

The \$5.4-million for the courthouse, shared equally

by the federal and provincial governments, was kept under wraps until it was announced by Dufferin-Caledon MP David Tilson and Brampton Springdale's Liberal MPP, Linda Jeffrey, at noon Friday.

The \$1.8 million, also a Canada-Ontario initiative, had been applied for last July after county council heard construction costs could rise to as much as \$7-million from original estimates of \$5.6 million. It had been approved on the day of the sod turning on Lawrence Ave., but too late for a formal announcement at the time.

The courthouse addition, although principally considered a Provincial Offences Act court facility, is a multi-purpose building to house county administration and departments as well as a court-

room and related space, along with a sally port for the safe conduct of prisoners.

CAO Linda Dean said the courtroom would include accommodations for a jury, and could generate additional income for the county.

Original plans for the addition were for about 32,000 square feet — 7,000 for POA and the rest for county purposes.

This was scaled back at the behest of county council to about 26,000 square feet, but the final plan won't be certain until the council has mulled the drawings.

The most recent estimates of construction costs alone have been in the order of \$6.2 million, in addition to soft services and other expenses.

Although there had been some controversy at

county council over the size of the expansion before it was scaled back, Mr. Tilson Friday congratulated the council and planners for having had the project "shovel-ready" in time to qualify for the stimulus grant.

Mr. Tilson might have been in the best position to speak of the need for the courthouse project. "This was my home for 20 years," he said of the century-old Superior Court that doubles as county council chambers.

He practised both civil and criminal law in Orangeville from 1970 to 1990 when he narrowly defeated incumbent Liberal Mavis Wilson in his initial run at provincial politics under the Progressive Conservative banner.

When the schematic design has been received from Parkin Architects Limited it is expected to

show square footage of 6,656 for POA court facilities, 4,479 for building and public works departments, 6,800 for storage, and 1,573 for maintenance shops.

Based on design needs, the total floor area is likely to be 26,530 square feet

(2,465 square metres), well down from the initially proposed 32,000, according to a September 2009 report.

The addition is expected to enhance the county's services while solving the local backlog in POA cases.

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Nov. 26 - Dec. 6 Century Church Theatre, Hillsburgh. Traditional Pantomime with Red Riding Hood. Fri.-Sat. 7 pm, Sat., Sun 2 pm. Tickets Erin & Hillsburgh Libraries or call 519-855-4586.

Nov. 28 Tweedsmuir Presbyterian Church Bazaar & Silent Auction. 9 am - 1 pm. Crafts, cookie table, baking, something for everyone. 6 John St.

Nov. 29 20th Annual Christmas in the Valley Craft & Gift Sale, 10 am - 4 pm. Grand Valley Community Centre. Free admission. Please bring a donation for the food bank.

Dec. 1 7:00 pm Committee of Adjustment. Council Chambers, main level, Municipal Building, 87 Broadway.

Dec. 3 5:30 pm. Recreation Committee Meeting. Council Chambers, main level. Municipal Building, 87 Broadway.

Dec. 3 7:00 pm. Mayors Youth Advisory Committee Meeting, Committee Room, lower level. Municipal Building, 87 Broadway.

Dec. 3, 8, 10, & 15 Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County offers "First Steps" program for caregivers caring for a loved one with Alzheimer disease or related dementia. Sessions from 6 pm - 8 pm. 25 Centennial Rd., Unit 1, Call 519-941-1221 for info.

Dec. 4-6 The Adventures of Robin Hood, Grace Tipling Hall, Shelburne. Tickets available at Shelburne IDA Drugs, Holmes Music and Appliance Store and Town of Shelburne, tiplingstagecompany.com or 519-925-2600 x252.

Public meeting set on hospital closure

• From page A1

The mayor turned to the plight of the Shelburne patients. "None of this addresses the 22 patients at Shelburne."

He said the proposed closure would leave some of those patients without beds.

By consensus, the council would favour a round-table discussion involving all parties to the issue. But Mayor Crewson said the ministerial policy adviser would not attend but, instead, has suggested a liaison person with the LHIN, and advised that

the minister of health could be contacted by the local MPP, Sylvia Jones.

The mayor asked for council's guidance on the next steps to be taken. Councillor AJ Cavey threw the ball back into the mayor's court. "What do you feel the next step should be?" she asked.

Councillor Geoff Dunlop suggested simply continuing to move up the ladder to the highest levels.

Meantime, the Chamber has urged hospital board chair Margot Hornseth and the directors to keep the Shelburne facility open.

In a letter dated Nov. 19 and copied to Mayor Crewson as well as to MPP Jones, Dufferin Warden Gord Montgomery and LHIN chair Joe McReynolds, Chamber President Ron Munro asks that the hospi-

tal board find ways to balance its budget without reducing the level of services provided.

"We, the (Chamber board), strongly urge you ... to aggressively approach the LHIN for more proportional funding based on population growth in this area instead of cutting services and facilities as a way of balancing your budget," the letter reads in part.

"As the (Chamber) endeavours to attract more business to this county and thus more residents, it is essential that the Shelburne and Orangeville sites of Headwaters Health Care Centre be a vital part of this community both now and for many years to come."

Tax increase

• From page A1

Mono treasurer Les Halucha said the town's reserves, both obligatory and discretionary, are approximately \$3.5 million.

The town is also fortunate insofar as it is not carrying any debt. Therefore, Mono can accrue interest on existing reserves, while not having to worry about paying interest on money owed.

This was the final municipal budget brought forth by the current council, since elections are slated for November, 2010.

Nevertheless, there were suggestions from council members as to what projects should be considered for 2011.

"We don't want to lose thought of Fourth Line north of Hockley Road," said Councillor Bob Shirley. "It's really not safe."

As a result of the budget trimming, Mono's town-only tax rate will be cut by about six per cent from the 2009 rate of \$5.06 per \$1,000 assessment to offset an average 25 per cent increase in residential assessments produced by provincially ordered reassessment in 2007 that is being phased in over four years.

As a consequence, some Mono residents will see their tax bills drop because their assessments rose less than 25 per cent, while others whose assessments rose more than the average will face increases.

Future Shop CORRECTION NOTICE

HP Laptop DV6-2044CA/ 1334CA/ 2064CA/ DV7-3024CA. 10131705, 10131388, 10132089, 10131706. On the November 13 flyer, page 18, please be advised that the following laptops are available in select colours only. DV6-2044CA - Black, DV7-3024CA - Black, DV6-1334CA - White, and DV6-2064CA - White. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.

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