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NEWS RELEASE

Council Adopts 2009 Budget

Picton, ON - County Council, at its meeting of April 28, 2009, adopted its 2009 Budget which moves the County of Prince Edward toward a sustainable future. Major highlights include the adoption of a financing strategy for social services from 2009 to 2018, reduction in the cost of capital by using the Investing in Ontario grant and, for the first time, a reduction in the municipal tax rate.

The 2009 budget of \$78,713,108 will raise \$22,766,013 through taxation, with the remainder funded through Provincial and Federal grants and user fees. The operating budget includes an 8.2% increase in departmental budgets and a 4.4% decrease in external agencies, including costs for provincial programs (downloaded services).

As a result of assessment growth, the annual average cost to the taxpayer is decreased by \$40.93 based on \$100,000 of residential assessment.

Top priority projects that received funding are:

- Construction of the Picton Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Construction of the Wellington & District Community Centre

Increased capital spending focused on leveraging funding from the Investing in Ontario Act, including:

- Accessibility improvements
- Recycling strategy for urban centres and parks
- Macaulay Museum upgrades
- Wellington Park washroom upgrades and
- Various roads projects

“So many factors influence our budget, and many of them beyond our control,” said Mayor Leo P. Finnegan. “We have worked hard to achieve a balance between maintaining services, recognizing the current economy and ensuring fiscal sustainability. We have embarked on a clear program to replenish our assets and control debt.”

The following wide-range of services are funded by the County’s tax base:

Ambulance	Homes for the Aged	Recreation Programs
By-law Enforcement	Land Use Planning	Roads Maintenance & Construction
Canine Control	Libraries	Social Services & Social Housing
Economic Development	Museums and Culture	Traffic Control
Fire Protection & Rescue	Parks, Arenas, Harbours & Marinas	Waste Management & Recycling
Governance & Administration	Police	Winter Control

A complete list of new initiatives and projects is available on the County web site.