

The Corporation of the  
County of Prince Edward



332 Main Street  
Picton, Ontario  
K0K 2T0  
Tel: 613.476.2148  
Fax: 613.476.5737

For release: April 4, 2011

---

## NEWS RELEASE

### **County Council Adopts 2011 Budget**

**Picton ON** - Council has adopted its 2011 Operating and Capital Budgets, reducing its tax rate for the third year in a row. Based on 2010 figures, Prince Edward County has the lowest tax rate of rural and urban wards within Quinte West, Napanee, Belleville and Brighton. The net tax levy of \$24,515,829 represents an average tax increase for property owners of 1.01%.

The Operating Budget increased over 2010 by \$286,947 largely due to factors beyond the control of the municipality. Budget increases from external agencies such as police services, library services, land ambulance, MPAC, Quinte Conservation and the Health Unit totalled \$407,000 and grants to community organizations of \$63,000 were offset by reductions in operating departments' budgets. Council's goal was to minimize service level reductions, where possible. Some impacts will be noticed by the public in areas such as road resurfacing, street sweeping, parks maintenance and front-counter service.

Council agreed to a large reduction in capital spending for 2011, due to the completion of several large multi-year projects in 2010 which took advantage of senior government stimulus funding programs.

Capital projects funded from the tax base for 2011 will include road reconstruction on County Road 29, Eastern Avenue in Rednersville and Main Street in Picton; culvert rehabilitation in Bloomfield and Wellington; needed repairs and upgrades at County-owned buildings; fire equipment; Microsoft Office 2010; and, boat launch upgrades at Rossmore and Northport. Capital projects from user fees or reserves include water and wastewater upgrades on Washburn Street, Maple Street and Gladstone Avenue in Picton; various upgrades to water and wastewater treatment facilities, and a new ambulance.

"Council firmly believed that this was a year to take a step back and not start any major new projects," said Mayor Peter A. Mertens. "This was probably the most extensive budget exercise the County has gone through in many years, and we were determined to hold the line for our ratepayers. The current economy, a new Council, and the retirement of our Chief Administrative Officer in June are all reasons to take a cautious approach to spending until we have done a thorough review of our operations and determined our priorities. Council and staff will be working hard through the next year to ensure that we are spending tax dollars efficiently and appropriately."

In 2011, on a residential property tax bill of \$849.27 per \$100,000 of assessment, ratepayers will pay:

- \$258.94 for transportation services
- \$200.96 for protection service
- \$132.64 for recreation & cultural services
- \$92.50 for social housing & family services
- \$66.34 for health services
- \$36.87 for planning & development services
- \$32.38 for environmental services
- \$18.25 for capital expenditures
- \$10.39 for general government services.

For complete details on the 2011 budget, please visit [www.pecounty.on.ca](http://www.pecounty.on.ca).