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NEWS RELEASE

Council Adopts 2007 Budget

Picton, ON - County Council, at its meeting of April 10, 2007, adopted its 2007 operating and capital budgets for a tax increase of 3.50%. The increase allows for an emphasis on services to youth and seniors with a focus on healthy living. Operating revenues will be enhanced with modest increases in rental rates for County owned facilities. An increase in waste disposal fees is aimed at encouraging the reduction of waste.

The 2007 budget is \$53,480,805.00 with the amount to be raised through taxation being \$20,462,329.00. The balance of the budget is funded through Provincial grants and user fees. The operating budget for 2007 includes a 2.03% increase in departmental budgets and a 1.47% increase in external agencies, including costs for provincial programs (downloaded services).

The impact of the budget will be to increase the annual average cost to the taxpayer by \$40.00, based on a home assessed at \$100,000.

The budget approved the launch of the County's first specialized transit service for disabled and elderly persons, and supported and contributed to some citizen group-lead initiatives, such as:

- Improvements to the Cenotaph in Picton
- Development of an Activity Pad at Sophiasburgh
- Improvements to the Wellington Beach
- Development of a Skatepark in Picton
- Development of Wellington Baseball Diamond

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

Ambulance	Homes for the Aged	Recreation Programs
By-law Enforcement	Land Use Planning	Roads Maintenance & Construction
Building Services	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

"This first budget of the new term of Council was heavily influenced by budget increases from external agencies and the costs of providing provincial services, such as Police, Ambulance and Social Services," said Mayor Leo P. Finnegan. "By working with the community and our incredible volunteer base, we are pleased to provide projects which will benefit our youth and our elderly population while supporting our commitment to maintaining service levels."

The capital budget provides for new road construction and improvements to municipally owned properties and facilities. A complete list of new initiatives and projects is available on the County web site.