



March 31, 2016

MEDIA RELEASE

COUNTY'S 2016 BUDGET APPROVED

NEWS

Hastings County Council has approved its annual capital and operating budget for the current year.

The County will spend \$133.1 million on its major services including long term care, ambulance and emergency services, social services, housing and planning operations. Staffing levels will remain at 2015 levels.

The levy to the 14 member municipalities of the County will be \$13.4 million, an increase of 2.7% after growth.

QUOTES

"Today's budget is an important one for us," said Warden Rick Phillips.

"We are continuing to invest in County infrastructure while at the same time honouring our commitments to financially support the capital campaigns of our local and regional hospitals, Loyalist College and of course keep recruiting urgently needed family doctors," stated Phillips.

"More than 75% of the 1,432 housing units that we own are 40 years and older. We need to continue to invest more in order to keep them safe and livable. We are working towards our annual target of \$1.7million and this budget moves us closer to that number," added Phillips.

"Our two long term care facilities, Hastings and Centennial Manors, are both 10 years old. They are in need of some upgrades as well including basic things like new flooring in Hastings Manor and while these things cost money the residents deserve the improvements," said Phillips

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued financial support to:
 - Quinte Health Care Imagine Campaign - \$100,000 (\$1.1 million total commitment)
 - Kingston General Hospital - \$65,400 (\$654,400 total commitment)
 - Loyalist College - \$50,000 (\$350,000 total commitment)
 - Doctor Recruitment - \$107,000 (\$2,124,400 since 2006)

- Repairs and maintenance to social housing units = \$1.5 million
- Purchase of four new ambulances, two emergency response vehicles = \$755,000
- Carpet replacement at Hastings Manor = \$600,000
- Payment to the Health Unit = \$867,071
- Payment to Municipal Property Assessment Corporation = \$895,700
- Rising hydro costs have added \$280,000 to the budgets at Hastings and Centennial Manors as well as social housing units

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For more information contact:

Rick Phillips, Warden
(613) 966-1311, 3203
phillipsr@hastingscounty.com

or

Susan Horwood, Treasurer & Director of Finance
(613) 933-1311, 3208
horwoods@hastingscounty.com

or

Jim Pine, CAO
(613)966-1311, 3204
pinej@hastingscounty.com