

News Release

Tavistock Drainage Update

The Tavistock Municipal Drain 2006 has been approved by Council and the Court of Revision; however, several outstanding appeals have resulted in a referral to the Ontario Drainage Tribunal. Appeals on the design of the drain and on the decision of the Court of Revision have been forwarded by the Township to the Tribunal. The Tribunal has indicated the possibility of a hearing at the end of April or first part of May 2007. Residents that have appealed to the Drainage Tribunal have received letters about the appeal process and are being asked to submit clarification and supporting documents by April 3, 2007.

Mayor Don McKay said, "While Council is disappointed there were appeals on the drain, this is part of the process under the Drainage Act. Council knew going into this project that appeals were a distinct possibility and we are prepared to deal with any decision from the Tribunal". Several public meetings were held over the course of designing the Tavistock Municipal Drain 2006 to gather input and listen to the concerns of residents and those affected by the drain. The proposed drain is a large drainage project, involving both rural and urban interests. The Engineer designing the drain attempts to address all of the concerns; however, the mandate of the engineer is to design the system that will best protect the community and do so in a cost effective, efficient manner.

The proposed Tavistock Municipal Drain 2006 is approximately 2.2 km in length and is estimated to cost \$869,100. Of that amount \$442,799 would be assessed to the Township and County roads and lands, with the balance being assessed to property owners.

Mayor McKay added, "The Township is committed to moving forward with this project as quickly as possible. The Township's cost has been included in the 2007 budget and hopefully with a favourable decision from the Ontario Drainage Tribunal, the Township will still be able to complete this project in 2007".

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