

HIRA COMMENTS ON 2009 BUDGET

- 1) The 2009 budget for the Township of Frontenac Islands was passed by council at the July meeting. The budget comprises the Township, Wolfe Island and Howe Island.
- 2) The budget provides for an increase in taxes of 3.25%, an increase of \$92,848 and is a balanced budget.
- 3) The Current Value Assessment is based on the 2009 revisions by MPAC. The increases to bring the assessed value to current market values (as seen by MPAC) will be phased in over four years at 25% each year. The total assessed value for 2009 increased by 10.64% for residential property and 9.25% for farmland.
- 4) The residential mill rate for Howe Island residential property is 0.00785372 which is 6.4% less than 2008. The farm rate is 0.00196343.
- 5) The total raised by taxation of Wolf Island and Howe Island is \$2,949,700, \$1,332,923 for the Township, \$783,868 for the County and \$ 832,908 for Education. Comparison to 2008 is as follows: -

	2008	2009	change	%
Township	\$1,358,251	\$1,332,923	(\$ 25328)	(1.86)
County	\$ 736,842	\$ 783,868	\$47026	6.38
Education	\$ 761,758	\$ 832,908	\$71,149	9.34
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$2,856,852</u>	<u>\$2,949,700</u>	<u>\$92,847</u>	<u>3.25</u>

Note that the tax budget increased for the County and for Education but decreased for the Township.

- 6) ROADS-The most significant variance from the previous year is for Howe Island road expenditures. The budget includes as capital expenditures an amount of \$513,000 for roads, an increase from \$73,332 in 2008. The road work resulting from the Government stimulus program is not reflected in the budget figures. These funds amounting to about \$1 million will help to upgrade our roads and could result in monies being available in the future for other roadwork or worthwhile projects. Thanks to the Township staff for successfully steering us through the application process.
- 7) COUNTY-Of particular interest to Howe Island residents, The Howe Islander Ferry costs in the County budget increased 5% to \$879k, offset by Provincial MTO revenue of \$703k which also increased by 5%. Only a portion of the operating costs are included in the operating budget since the MTO covers all of the maintenance and the fuel.

Robert Staples, CA