

# SEWER

Cont'd from Pg. 14

answer citizen questions about the cost sharing plan and the projects themselves.

Corker explained how two loan bylaws for the full \$22.2 million tab will be tabled at the Dec. 4 council meeting even though the federal and provincial governments have already committed to \$10.5 million. She also noted that if Hudson ratepayers vote against the sewer project, it's likely that regional authorities will pressure the province into ordering Hudson to carry out the project without the benefit of infrastructure grants.

Unlike the water project, where only connected households will pay more, the sewer system costs will be covered by all residents. Non-serviced households, which include 1,895 homes, will pay about \$60 extra a year, while the 789 ratepayers in the serviced areas should see an extra \$475

added to their tax bill, regardless of whether or not they plan to hook up to the system. Serviced addresses will also have to cover the cost of the connection from their building to the sewer line, which can vary considerably from property to property, and the cost of decommissioning their septic systems.

Although nobody opposed the projects, a number voiced concerns about the cost-sharing plan, with some arguing that the costs should be split equally throughout the town. Others thought non-users should not have to pay anything, while still others were concerned about the high cost of hooking up to the sewer line.

The Town's proposed cost-sharing structure received an even rockier ride at last Wednesday's meeting from business owners and commercial landlords when they learned they would be assessed according to Quebec Environment Ministry water-consumption estimates.

Many businesses already fear traffic disruptions caused by the year-long project and several are also paying off hefty loans for existing wastewater-treatment systems they would be forced to

fill with sand or gravel.

"I had put in, at the beginning of 2005 a \$25,000 septic system that's going to be obsolete," said Place Lancaster owner Bob Dauphiné. "We have to undertake the costs of running a line from our existing systems to the new hookup. I would imagine that, hopefully there will be some economies to hooking up at the same time the town is doing the project."

Dauphiné is happy to hear construction won't be taking place in the summer, peak months for local businesses. "That would impact detrimentally on the retailers and the business owners," he added.

Corker defended the 70-30 cost split as the most democratic means of allowing everyone to have a say

Of Hudson's 2,684 addresses, 789, or approximately 29 percent, will be connected to the new sewer system. Roughly 30 percent pay no municipal taxes including public buildings such as the Town Hall, Stephen F. Shaar Community Centre and the adjoining Legion branch, the post offices, Mount Pleasant elementary and Westwood Senior

High schools, and two churches.

The Town is also trying to determine how and whether to bill not-for-profit mixed-use facilities such as the

Hudson Medi-Centre and the proposed new medical centre. On Tuesday, Corker said both Manoir Cavagnal and the Treehouse Daycare will pay for water and sewerage.

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