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**Township of West Lincoln**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release: April 1, 2015**

**Council Approves 2015 Budget**

**West Lincoln, Ont. – April 1, 2015** - At its March 30th meeting, the Township of West Lincoln approved its 2015 operating and capital budgets. The Township of West Lincoln's tax levy will rise by 6.9% to support a net budget of \$7.4 million. On average, a homeowner with a 2015 property assessment of \$303,103 will see the West Lincoln portion of their 2015 tax bill increase by approximately \$67.00 (\$5.58 per month).

The 2015 budget maintains prior year service levels. Highlights include a \$1.1 million investment in roads and bridges that will see improvements made to Young Street, Port Davidson Road and Caistor Centre Road. The development of the walking trail system will continue, with funds allocated for the North Creek Trail Project and \$804,000 will be invested to replace aging fire services apparatus and equipment for servicing our roads. The Township will continue to offer recreational activities that its citizens enjoy, including exercise programs, children's camp programs, Family Day festivities, the Canada Day Tent at PoultryFest and an expanded Harvest Routes festival.

The 2015 budget process introduced the presentation of a budget open house for the public which was well received by those in attendance. In addition, this year's process included the development of ten year capital plans for the first time. These plans outline both present and future infrastructure, capital replacements and Public Works requirements. Council wisely ensured that 4.6% of the levy increase will be dedicated to the capital reserve for future infrastructure and capital replacement.

"Approving the annual budget is an important and demanding responsibility which is faced by West Lincoln Council each year and this year was particularly difficult; however, with the implementation of strategic and long term financial initiatives, we will be able to assess the future requirements/needs of the municipality. Difficult decisions had to be made in order to maintain current service levels and ensure effective and efficient municipal operations" stated Mayor Douglas Joyner.

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