

Canadian Tire Money and U.S. at Par!

The Bend
Restaurant & Bar

5801 Hwy. 3 Sherkston • 894-4072 • Full Menu

Subscribe today

Phone 905-992-9168 or send an email to
cloutier@ridgewayherald.com

See Page 2 for details

Wednesday, January 26, 2011 • Issue #3 • \$1

The Ridgeway Herald

Cash flow crunch nearly sinks track

Council leaves board unprotected against personal financial liability

Board members of the non-profit corporation that runs the racetrack are being held personally financially liable in case the track is unable to continue operations until the Town or Province indemnifies them.

The board of the Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium sought indemnification from the Town, and in a closed door meeting Monday, councillors decided the volunteers on the board can continue to bear the risk until the issue is further investigated.

Consortium chief executive officer Jim Thibert said the issue came up during meetings this month when the board struggled to find the money to cover the \$650,000 lease on the racetrack.

In a meeting Tuesday, the board decided to soldier on since it had arranged a \$300,000 loan from the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association - which holds a seat on the board - plus an additional operating grant from the HBPA for \$150,000 which the Town approved last week.

The grants are in addition to the \$500,000 yearly grants from the HBPA and the Town to offset operating costs of the racetrack which last year recorded \$79 million in revenue.

Thibert said the board members are responsible for "wind-down costs" in case the racetrack ceases operations, since the terms of agreement with the Town, HBPA and the

continued on Page 8

New chiropractor in town



Dr. Julia Fabiano, left, is Ridgeway's newest chiropractor and she practices her specialty at Ridgeway Wellness Centre, owned by Janet Gigone, right. Dr. Fabiano uses active release techniques and acupuncture to help her patients and is available for appointments on select days of the week.

Computer Issues?

Answers

Training & Services

Is coming to Ridgeway

February 1st, 2011

154 Ridge Rd, N.

905.991.0039

Grand Opening 11am

Empower your
technology today!

The Ridgeway Herald

The independent local newspaper of Fort Erie, Canada

235 South Mill St., Ridgeway, Ontario • (905) 992-9168

www.ridgewayherald.com

Published with gratitude to
many readers, advertisers, sellers and contributors.

For information, contact Mike Cloutier



Town review requires community input

Opinion by Mike Cloutier

An independent third-party review of the operations of the Town of Fort Erie might be a good idea, but councillor John Hill's approach to it could be improved.

The idea of an independent review being conducted under the guidance of "interested councillors and the CAO" defeats the goal of independence.

The review should be conducted under the auspices of an integrity commissioner or some similar designate to ensure the terms of reference are followed.

The terms of reference should be written by the community. It could be done through the open house or public information centre system the town has. It would invite written submissions also.

The terms of reference are reviewed by council and a draft is prepared for council approval at a subsequent meeting.

Then an RFP is prepared for open competition, not pre-selected firms, and an evaluation "scorecard" is prepared to select the consultant.

The entire study will be presented to the public, not just the summary of recommendations and conclusions, where it will be received and given to the CAO for comment.

Even before we get into the technical details of a consultant's review of the town, the community must know what the councillors expectations are, how much we can expect to save in taxes

and how much this process is going to cost.

Back in 1994 or 95, a review by George Cuff was estimated to cost about \$130,000 -- about what it would have cost to buy up an entire street of cottages in Crystal Beach.

I had an opportunity to talk to Cuff out in British Columbia in 2005 when the idea of a town review came up again. "Are we talking Cadillac price or Volkswagen price," I asked.

"I drive a Volkswagen and they're not cheap," he said.

It's reasonable to expect a firm capable of a municipal review would cost \$300K.

A one per cent tax hike is equal to about \$150K in operations spending. Are we going to save two per cent, assuming recommendations are accepted?

There are a few recommendations right off the bat that a consultant can make that would not be acceptable, making a much of the review a very expensive batch of kindling.

It's obvious councillors have some preconceived notions about town operations and personnel and that, really, they're looking for someone outside to justify them.

If the new council is intent on having a consultant come in to rummage through the town, councillors would be well-advised to pay attention this year and begin the community process to establish some terms of reference with an eye to a review in the future.

Letter

Review not so expensive: consultant

Originally posted on RidgewayHerald.com

I do not generally see or respond to stories that reference my name in various papers across Canada. I am not sufficiently interested to become that tech savvy or modern and prefer my current pace and degree of interest in the musings of others. I noted this piece and thought I would offer a couple of comments:

1) the Council which was elected by the citizens recently in Fort Erie should be able to determine the terms of reference of any governance or corporate review. Reference could be made to the generic terms included on my website.

2) The cost of such a review will be determined by the terms of reference and by any budget that Council will set. I would think that a review of a reasonable scope could be accomplished for about \$75-100,000 plus reasonable out of pocket expenses (likely less than \$10,000).

With best regards to all for a blessed and peaceful New Year,
George B. Cuff, FCMC
Consultant

Subscribe today

The Ridgeway Herald will be published at least 20 times over the course of the year in 2011 and possibly as many as 24 times. You can make sure you receive your copy by subscribing.

- You may receive your copy in one of three ways:
- sent directly to your email as a pdf document, or
 - you may pick up a reserved hard copy at convenient locations throughout town, or
 - mailed via Canada Post

The cost is \$20 per year for email and reserved copies. Canada Post subscriptions are \$30.

There are no coupons, discounts or free trips in association with this offer. No children will ask you for money on Saturday mornings.

Pledge your subscription as soon as possible, but payment will not be due until the new year.

To make your pledge, phone **905-992-9168** or send an email to cloutier@ridgewayherald.com.

The Ridgeway Herald

The independent local newspaper of Fort Erie, Canada

235 South Mill St., Ridgeway, Ontario • (905) 992-9168

www.ridgewayherald.com

For information, contact Mike Cloutier

Party Fort Erie!

We have everything you need for every special occasion

Ridgeway's Downtown Dollar & Discount

Check out our huge selection of toys

336 Ridge Road — 894-5566

The state of Fort Erie — by the numbers

The most common refrains among people who seek election to town council are that the town spends too much money compared to other municipalities, it's over-staffed, over-taxed and even verges on bankruptcy.

Councillors who make it their aim to be obstructive and

How the comparisons are made

Comparison are made with 14 other municipalities with similar population figures as Fort Erie. Seven have more residents, seven have fewer.

The range was chosen to reflect one in which Fort Erie could be the median among municipalities with less than 50,000 population. The maximum population was chosen because it is a demarcation used in government census analysis.

There are more municipalities in Ontario which match these conditions, but they were not surveyed for the study from which the information was drawn.

The municipalities, their 2008 estimated populations, their status and upper tier jurisdiction are:

Cornwall (C)	47,277	City	County
Georgina (Geo)	46,847	Town	Region
Haldimand (H)	46,261	Town	Single tier
Quinte West (QW)	44,267	City	County*
Timmins (T)	43,717	City	Single tier
St. Thomas (ST)	38,204	City	County*
Stratford (S)	31,589	City	County*
Fort Erie (FE)	30,903	Town	Region
Leamington (L)	29,766	Town	County
Orangeville (O)	28,524	Town	County
Whitchurch-Stouffville (WS)	27,108	Town	Region
Prince Edward County (PEC)	26,140	City	Single Tier
Bradford West Gwillimbury (BWG)	25,505	Town	County
Grimsby (Gri)	24,725	Town	Region
East Gwillimbury (EG)	23,318	Town	Region

* Quinte West, St. Thomas and Stratford are list as separated from the counties in which they are located by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. What this means is not known, but it seems there is some governance relationship, otherwise they would be listed as single-tier municipalities

Information is also included from lower tier municipalities in Niagara Region. They are:

St. Catharines (SC)	136,798	City
Niagara Falls (NF)	84,916	City
Welland (W)	52,111	City
Fort Erie (FE)	30,903	Town
Grimsby (Gri)	24,725	Town
Lincoln (Lin)	22,390	Town
Port Colborne (PC)	19,524	City
Thorold (Tho)	18,856	City
Pelham (Pel)	16,693	Town
Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL)	15,117	Town
West Lincoln (WL)	13,552	Township
Wainfleet (Wain)	6,806	Township

For some categories, comparisons are also made among regional governments: Niagara, Waterloo, Peel, Halton, Durham, Muskoka and York.

disobliging feed off and even fuel generally-held beliefs in the community that everybody is incompetent or dishonest -- except for themselves.

They rely on the media to carry their message because, by and large, reporters just scribble down what they have to say and don't research the facts.

For the past decade, a representative sample of municipalities in Ontario have participated in a wide-ranging study conducted annually by BMA Management Consulting Inc. to compare municipal performance in the only way a management consultant can -- in dollars and cents.

Fort Erie is one of the 81 municipalities that participates. Toronto with a population of 2.7 million is the largest municipality in the study. Wainfleet with 6,800 residents is the smallest. Fort Erie is just about in the middle.

The 2009 municipal study was released prior to the election in October 2010.

The provincial ministry of municipal affairs and housing also conducts a study of all municipalities in the province, but it only releases averages of spending in service areas, whereas the BMA study includes quantitative analysis of the individual municipalities.

The study must be seen from the whole because municipalities are different. Their demographic make up, land area, density, income and governance structure differ from place to place.

In this exclusive report in The Ridgeway Herald the study is dissected, comparing the profile information of municipalities in the same population range and presenting the study results so that similar communities can be compared against each other.

Beginning with population statistics, land area density, assessment, household income, financial position of the municipality, tax burden and rates for water and sewer services are compared.

Cost comparisons of individual service areas and and further analysis of the state of Fort Erie will be published in the next edition of The Ridgeway Herald.

Chadwick's

*Love the life you live
Live the life you love*

Unique gifts for the people you love

*Antiques, collectables, crystal,
estate jewellery, china and more . . .*

**Step back in time and enjoy browsing
through our two shoppes**

**Come and find the perfect gift
for your Valentine!**

300-304 Ridge Road, Ridgeway • 289 929-0968

- **Income • Home Value**
- **Assessment • Debt**
- **Reserves • Taxes**
- **Water & Sewer Cost**
- **Gaming Revenue**

Total Assessment Per Capita		
	(\$)	Rank
Whitchurch	186,355	high
E Gwillimbury	126,848	high
Bradford	108,031	mid
Prince Edward	99,315	mid
Grimsby	98,405	mid
Georgina	93,284	mid
Fort Erie	88,465	mid
Orangeville	85,057	mid
Haldimand	84,075	mid
Stratford	81,666	low
Quinte West	64,761	low
St. Thomas	60,924	low
Timmins	49,868	low
Cornwall	48,207	low

Niagara		
NOTL	178,372	high
Pelham	99,948	mid
Wainfleet	98,536	mid
Grimsby	98,405	mid
Lincoln	97,072	mid
Fort Erie	88,465	mid
Niagara Falls	86,325	mid
West Lincoln	83,579	low
St. Catharines	75,380	low
Port Colborne	69,416	low
Welland	60,501	low
Province Ave.	100,998	
Min	48,207	
Max	205,658	
Median	94,767	

Average Income and Dwelling Value (Statistics Canada)

	2009 Income	Rank	Home value	Rank
Cornwall	\$58,200	low	\$129,511	low
Fort Erie	\$63,700	low	\$186,839	low
Quinte West	\$66,600	low	\$181,187	low
St. Thomas	\$69,300	low	\$168,400	low
Stratford	\$71,400	low	\$224,259	low
Timmins	\$73,100	low	\$130,761	low
Prince Edward	\$73,300	low	\$254,565	mid
Haldimand	\$77,300	mid	\$226,781	low
Leamington	\$81,300	mid	\$197,360	low
Orangeville	\$85,400	mid	\$263,056	mid
Georgina	\$90,600	mid	\$269,662	mid
Grimsby	\$99,200	high	\$282,073	mid
Bradford	\$103,700	high	\$320,974	high
E. Gwillimbury	\$132,900	high	\$398,741	high
Whitchurch	\$153,000	high	\$495,718	high
Average	\$91,385		\$275,205	
Median	\$85,184		\$254,565	
Min	\$58,200		\$129,511	
Max	\$204,000		\$623,223	

Niagara				
Fort Erie	\$63,700	low	\$186,839	low
Welland	\$64,700	low	\$171,169	low
Port Colborne	\$65,800	low	\$175,105	low
Niagara Falls	\$68,500	low	\$207,757	low
St. Catharines	\$69,300	low	\$208,031	low
Thorold	\$75,500	mid	\$200,995	low
Wainfleet	\$85,900	mid	\$226,651	low
West Lincoln	\$85,900	mid	\$275,720	mid
Lincoln	\$87,900	mid	\$268,537	mid
NOTL	\$97,300	high	\$344,872	high
Grimsby	\$99,200	high	\$282,073	mid
Pelham	\$107,200	high	\$300,165	high

Increase in housing value

	Value \$ 2001	\$ 2006	% Increase	% Rank
Timmins	113,941	130,761	15%	low
Cornwall	98,084	129,511	32%	low
St. Thomas	126,935	168,400	33%	low
Leamington	146,831	197,360	34%	low
Stratford	160,527	224,259	40%	low
Orangeville	180,197	263,056	46%	mid
Fort Erie	127,519	186,839	47%	mid
Quinte West	122,890	181,187	47%	mid
Haldimand	151,864	226,781	49%	mid
Bradford	214,587	320,974	50%	mid
Grimsby	187,426	282,073	50%	mid
E. Gwillimbury	262,065	398,741	52%	high
Whitchurch	324,797	495,718	53%	high
Georgina	175,803	269,662	53%	high
Prince Edward	152,867	254,565	67%	high
Average	186,546	275,205	46%	
Median	168,474	254,565	47%	
Min	98,084	129,511	10%	
Max	386,416	623,223	76%	

Niagara				
Wainfleet	167,850	226,651	35%	low
NOTL	247,634	344,872	39%	low
Welland	121,754	171,169	41%	low
Port Colborne	123,012	175,105	42%	low
Thorold	137,876	200,995	46%	mid
Fort Erie	127,519	186,839	47%	mid
St. Catharines	141,937	208,031	47%	mid
Pelham	202,771	300,165	48%	mid
Niagara Falls	139,813	207,757	49%	mid
Grimsby	187,426	282,073	50%	mid
Lincoln	178,289	268,537	51%	mid
West Lincoln	177,531	275,720	55%	high

Ruch & Williams
 Barristers, Solicitors, Notaries

Gerald F. Ruch, B.S., LL.B.
 L. Cameron Williams, B.A., LL.B.

43 Jarvis St., Fort Erie • 871-8711

Carroll's BOWLING LANES
 7 Klauck Street Fort Erie
 905 871-0818



Overall Financial Position

A municipality's financial position is defined as the total fund balances including equity in business government enterprises less the amount to be recovered in future years associated with long term liabilities. A comparison was made of each municipality's overall financial position (assets less liabilities) over time.

	Position \$	Per Capita
Stratford	(30,387,258)	(962)
Timmins	(13,342,927)	(305)
Prince Edward	(7,277,015)	(278)

Leamington	(3,788,953)	(127)
Georgina	(5,795,867)	(124)
Quinte West	9,426,081	213
E. Gwillimbury	6,477,194	278
Fort Erie	10,740,670	348
Bradford	9,887,586	388
Whitchurch	13,562,094	500
St. Thomas	29,213,400	765
Cornwall	44,650,458	944
Grimsby	31,424,524	1,271

Study Ave. 359

Niagara		
Port Colborne	1,164,633	60
Wainfleet	1,701,287	250
Pelham	4,993,768	299
Fort Erie	10,740,670	348
Welland	21,427,276	411
St. Catharines	78,447,996	573
West Lincoln	14,853,172	1,096
NOTL	18,000,402	1,191
Niagara Falls	104,066,093	1,226
Lincoln	27,928,163	1,247
Grimsby	31,424,524	1,271
Thorold	24,784,497	1,314

Debt Charges as a % of Taxation 2008

	Debt Service Cost	Total Taxation	%
Whitchurch	\$ -	\$13,744,352	0.00%
Cornwall	\$322,580	\$51,181,882	0.60%
Fort Erie	\$135,565	\$15,750,822	0.90%
Bradford WG	\$254,710	\$18,304,116	1.40%
Timmins	\$931,636	\$56,330,806	1.70%
Georgina	\$692,870	\$27,585,698	2.50%
Quinte West	\$1,263,409	\$36,322,178	3.50%
PE County	\$1,132,682	\$22,544,020	5.00%
St. Thomas	\$2,347,543	\$37,208,234	6.3
Leamington	\$1,388,205	\$21,943,625	6.30%
Grimsby	\$883,731	\$11,710,305	7.50%
East Gwill	\$821,804	\$10,188,130	8.10%
Stratford	\$3,897,617	\$36,838,926	10.60%

Niagara			
West Lincoln	\$ -	\$5,183,400	0.00%
Fort Erie	\$135,565	\$15,750,822	0.90%
Thorold	\$153,602	\$10,015,114	1.50%

Lincoln	\$552,205	\$9,437,603	5.90%
N. Falls	\$4,186,548	\$58,244,038	7.20%
Grimsby	\$883,731	\$11,710,305	7.50%
P. Colborne	\$873,011	\$11,405,526	7.70%
St. Cath.	\$8,311,911	\$73,904,957	11.20%
Welland	\$3,518,053	\$26,391,838	13.30%
NOTL	\$4,186,548	\$7,292,983	57.40%

Average 6.60%
Median 5.90%

Muskoka	\$1,617,677	\$74,366,557	2.20%
Halton	\$7,495,617	\$305,751,865	2.50%
Durham	\$11,944,347	\$472,972,009	2.50%
Peel	\$34,061,000	\$741,521,571	4.60%
Waterloo	\$21,369,385	\$349,821,753	6.10%
York	\$48,093,638	\$724,333,432	6.60%
Niagara	\$35,789,714	\$290,028,851	12.30%
Average			5.30%
Median			4.60%

Debt and Reserves Per Capita

	Debt	Reserves	Ratio
Whitchurch	\$ -	\$ 1,226	0.0
Cornwall	\$ 46	\$ 1,112	0.0
E.Gwill.	\$ 35	\$ 384	0.1
Grimsby	\$ 181	\$ 990	0.2
Bradford	\$ 260	\$ 1,107	0.2
Quinte West	\$ 174	\$ 597	0.3
Timmins	\$ 234	\$ 479	0.5
Fort Erie	\$ 209	\$ 520	0.6
St. Thomas	\$ 613	\$ 999	0.9
Leamington	\$ 1,345	\$ 1,512	1.1
Georgina	\$ 375	\$ 400	1.3
Prince Ed.	\$ 621	\$ 652	1.5
Stratford	\$ 1,622	\$ 1,074	2.1

Niagara			
W. Lincoln	\$ -	\$ 683	0.0

Thorold	\$ 103	\$ 1,611	0.1
Lincoln	\$ 105	\$ 775	0.2
Grimsby	\$ 181	\$ 990	0.2
N. Falls	\$ 354	\$ 1,024	0.4
Fort Erie	\$ 209	\$ 520	0.6
St. Cath.	\$ 462	\$ 704	0.7
NOTL	\$ 348	\$ 660	0.8
P. Col.	\$ 378	\$ 450	0.9
Welland	\$ 600	\$ 667	1.4

Peel	\$ 276	\$ 982	0.3
Durham	\$ 306	\$ 1,322	0.4
Halton	\$ 404	\$ 1,143	0.5
Niagara	\$ 385	\$ 670	0.6
Waterloo	\$ 304	\$ 612	0.7
York	\$ 1,060	\$ 1,275	1.4
Muskoka	\$ 1,693	\$ 835	2.2

Gaming and Casino Revenues

	Revenues	Per Capita
Ottawa	\$ 4,306,204	\$ 5
Chatham-Kent	\$ 686,818	\$ 6
Hamilton	\$ 5,303,778	\$ 10
London	\$ 4,273,712	\$ 11
Sudbury	\$ 2,086,637	\$ 13
Sault Ste. Marie	\$ 1,517,040	\$ 20
Windsor	\$ 4,464,042	\$ 20
Sarnia	\$ 1,574,971	\$ 21
Thunder Bay	\$ 2,466,342	\$ 22
Niagara Falls	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 31
Brantford	\$ 3,081,401	\$ 33
Fort Erie	\$ 1,307,494	\$ 42
Ajax	\$ 5,189,238	\$ 54
Milton	\$ 5,768,452	\$ 77
Average		\$ 26

PACIFIC PRODUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL
multimedia design and production
marketing and communications
www.pacificproductions.ca
905- 894-6212

PLW
Planning and Environmental Consulting
Renewable Energy and Beyond
Aboriginal Partnerships For Seven Generations
P. Leigh Whyte, MCIP, RPP, ACIP 35 Jarvis St. Suite 202
President 905 658-5314

2009 Net Levy Per Capita Upper and Lower Tiers

	Total Net Levy	Per Capita
Quinte West	\$37,484,636	\$847
PE County	\$22,766,013	\$871
Leamington	\$29,184,328	\$980
Haldimand	\$45,467,750	\$983
St. Thomas	\$38,425,000	\$1,006
Georgina	\$48,253,443	\$1,030
Brad. W. G.	\$26,525,178	\$1,040
E. Gwillimbury	\$24,775,990	\$1,063
Cornwall	\$50,522,301	\$1,069
Orangeville	\$32,060,626	\$1,124
Timmins	\$52,487,709	\$1,201
Stratford	\$38,042,227	\$1,204
Grimsby	\$30,671,437	\$1,241
Fort Erie	\$38,978,539	\$1,261
Whitchurch	\$39,520,278	\$1,458
Prov. Avg.		\$1,232

	Per Capita
Niagara	
West Lincoln	\$889
Welland	\$1,057
Thorold	\$1,093
Lincoln	\$1,151
St. Catharines	\$1,195
Port Colborne	\$1,205
Wainfleet	\$1,208
Pelham	\$1,228
Hamilton	\$1,231
Grimsby	\$1,241
Fort Erie	\$1,261
Niagara Falls	\$1,448
NOTL	\$1,805

Annual Water & Sewer Cost

	250m3	300m3
Bradford	\$801	\$897
Cornwall	\$575	\$575
E. Gwill.	\$653	\$783
Fort Erie	\$1,137	\$1,232
Georgina	\$562	\$666
Grimsby	N/A	N/A
Haldimand	\$1,093	\$1,248
Leamington	\$686	\$786
Orangeville	\$752	\$876
Prince Edward	\$1,057	\$1,143
Quinte West	\$513	\$567
St. Thomas	\$810	\$938
Stratford	\$628	\$732
Timmins	\$559	\$576
Whitchurch	\$517	\$620

Total Municipal Burden as Percentage of Income — Taxes, Water, Sewer

	09 Tax \$	Tax rank	W/S costs \$	Total	Total rank	Burden as %	% Rank
Whitchurch	\$5,148	high	\$517	\$5,665	high	3.70%	low
E. Gwillimbury	\$4,401	high	\$653	\$5,053	high	3.80%	low
Grimsby	\$4,090	high	\$433	\$4,523	mid	4.60%	low
Bradford	\$3,935	high	\$801	\$4,736	high	4.60%	low
Georgina	\$3,671	mid	\$562	\$4,233	mid	4.70%	mid
Timmins	\$2,860	low	\$559	\$3,419	low	4.70%	mid
Quinte West	\$2,726	low	\$513	\$3,239	low	4.90%	mid
Leamington	\$3,314	mid	\$686	\$4,000	low	4.90%	mid
St. Thomas	\$2,675	low	\$810	\$3,485	low	5.00%	mid
Cornwall	\$2,538	low	\$575	\$3,113	low	5.30%	mid
Orangeville	\$3,818	mid	\$752	\$4,571	mid	5.40%	mid
Stratford	\$3,237	low	\$628	\$3,866	low	5.40%	mid
Haldimand	\$3,141	low	\$1,093	\$4,233	mid	5.50%	high
Prince Edward	\$3,010	low	\$1,057	\$4,068	mid	5.50%	high
Fort Erie	\$2,903	low	\$1,137	\$4,039	low	6.30%	high
Average	\$3,637		\$719	\$4,358		5.00%	
Median	\$3,629		\$684	\$4,398		4.90%	
Min	\$2,494		\$310	\$3,084		3.40%	
Max	\$6,686		\$1,151	\$7,392		7.10%	
Niagara							
Grimsby	\$4,090	high	\$433	\$4,523	mid	4.60%	low
Pelham	\$4,413	high	\$747	\$5,159	high	4.80%	mid
Thorold	\$2,992	low	\$766	\$3,758	low	5.00%	mid
NOTL	\$4,081	high	\$825	\$4,905	high	5.00%	mid
West Lincoln	\$3,974	high	\$544	\$4,518	mid	5.30%	mid
Lincoln	\$3,780	mid	\$944	\$4,724	high	5.40%	mid
Niagara Falls	\$3,112	low	\$934	\$4,046	mid	5.90%	high
St. Catharines	\$3,362	mid	\$778	\$4,141	mid	6.00%	high
Welland	\$3,063	low	\$928	\$3,992	low	6.20%	high
Port Colborne	\$3,128	low	\$987	\$4,116	mid	6.30%	high
Fort Erie	\$2,903	low	\$1,137	\$4,039	low	6.30%	high

Wainfleet not included



Thank you for voting us #1 in Fort Erie because our reputation is on the "wine"

3707 Hibbard St. Ridgeway

Behind the Post Office

894-6029

tocelebrate@yahoo.ca

www.grapesontheridge.701.com

A One-Stop Wedding Shoppe member

Business Success & Loan Centre Fort Erie



Knowledge, Guidance, Financing

45 Jarvis Street

Fort Erie, ON L2A 2S3

905-871-7331 • www.bsift.com

- ✓ Business Loans (Regional)
- ✓ Business Counselling
- ✓ Government Funded Self-Employment Programs
- ✓ Seminars and Workshops

McCOOEY'S

Bicycles & Vacuums • Sales & Service
7 Dufferin Street at Klauk Street • Fort Erie

905-871-PART (7278)

Open Tuesday-Friday 9-5:30 — Saturday 9-2

Top Municipal Wage Earners

This is a list of the job positions which paid more than \$100,000 as reported for the 2009 municipal salary disclosure. Only

the municipalities in the list of 15 used for comparisons in the BMA Municipal Study are included, and some did not report. A separate list of Niagara municipalities

will be published. Some job positions were deleted as they have no equivalents in Fort Erie, such as police officers, fire fighters, and agency employees.

Fort Erie

Man., Operations Division	100,217.02
Dir., Financial Services/Treasurer	115,431.94
Dir., Community, Development Services	132,355.67
Dir., Legal, Legislative Services	125,347.43
Chief Administrative Officer	138,410.18
Dir., Infrastructure Services	125,347.44
Gen. Man., CGDC	100,914.30

Bradford West Gwillimbury

Chief Administration Officer	171228.69
Superintendent, Public Works	100243.17
Chief Executive Officer, Library	115601.12
Dir., Leisure Services	116476.33
Dir., Engineering Services	142012.65
Dir., Human Resources	122916.59
Dir., Planning, Development Services	138284.21
Dir., Administration	121499.03
Fire Captain	109385.9

Cornwall

Manager	100,810.92
Manager	131,592.38
Manager	102,637.85
Manager	113,822.91
Manager	113,582.50
Manager	112,868.09
Chief Administrative Officer	154,174.80
Manager	108,163.09
Manager	131,578.91
Deputy Fire Chief	127,502.89
Manager	122,678.96
Mechanic	116,759.73

East Gwillimbury

Fire Chief	101571.48
Dir. Building Approvals	114318.47
Gen. Man. Comm. Programs, Infrastructure	146476.84
Man. Facilities, Special Projects	100155.81
Dir. Parks, Leisure Services	107459.05
Gen. Man. Legal Services	157587.48
Chief Administrative Officer	186420.72

Georgina

Dir., Planning, Building	114,578.02
Dir., Engineering, Public Works	115,489.19
Dir. Administrative, Town Treasurer	102,062.48
Dir., Emergency Services, Fire Chief	118,693.88
Chief Administrative Officer	155,651.89
Dir., Leisure Services	108,426.58
Deputy Fire Chief	109,045.19

Grimsbly

Dir. Public Works	109206.51
Town Man.	131757.84

Haldimand

Chief Administrative Officer	156666.48
Gen. Man., Corporate Services	140863.34
Gen. Man., Community Services	128490.84
Gen. Man., Planning, Econ. Development	123586.41
Man., Environmental Services	102759.71
Man., Road Operations	103258.29
Gen. Man., Public Works	117032.75
Man., Fleet, Facilities	103258.28

Leamington

Dir., Finance, Business Services	114332.15
Chief Administrative Officer	143616.36
Dir., Development Services	126210.73
Dir., Corporate Services	118438.96
Dir., Community Services	122144.40

Orangeville

Treasurer	112714.62
Dir. Building, By-Law	106125.62
Fire Chief	115004.99
Dir. Parks, Recreation	104124.54
Chief Administrative Officer	152187.83
Dir. Planning	104124.54
Human Resources Man.	103275.91
Dir. Public Works	118046.62

Prince Edward County

Public Works Man.	110311.38
Commissioner Recreation, Parks, Culture	101248.08
Commissioner Planning, Building	107985.95
Chief Administrative Officer	128645.54
Commissioner Corporate Services	103134.72

Quinte West

Dir., Public Works, Environmental Services	116972.88
Dir., Corporate, Financial Services	107432
Chief Administrative Officer	111382.56
Fire Prevention Officer	127171.43
Dir., Planning, Development Services	107310.06
Fire Prevention Officer	111676.64

Stratford

Chief, Fire Department	125398.87
Dir., Human Resources	113048.1
Chief Executive Officer, Library	100279.35
Dir., Environmental Services	123565.17
City Clerk	106388.31
Dir., Planning	113048.06
Dir. Engineering, Public Works	110517.35
Dir. Corporate Services	114396.52
Dir. Building, Planning	114396.45
Deputy Fire Chief	101531.25
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer	118972.41
Chief Administrative Officer	142355.91
Dir. Community Services	110271.92
Dir. Social Services	114396.48
Fire Chief	116493.15

Timmins

Man., Public Works	109406.54
Man., Public Utilities	125230.08
Dir., Finance, Treasurer	139894.04
Dir., Public Works, Engineering	139712.31
Dir., Human Resources	117724.48
Deputy Dir. Finance	100846.2
Dir., Development, Maint., Transportation	139895.86
Dir., Information Technology	119342.08
Chief Executive Officer, Econ.Dev.Corp.	111678.84
Fire Chief	119342.08
Superintendent Waterplant Maintenance	103774.35
Engineering Man.	107131.1
Deputy Fire Chief	100846.2
Chief Administrative Officer	178528.02
City Clerk	157544.46

Whitchurch-Stouffville

Chief Administrative Officer	169974.28
Man., Public Works Operations	101877.08
Clerk	122492.64
Deputy Fire Chief	108596.56
Dir. Planning, Building Services	108730.26
Chief Executive Officer, Public Library	108859.08
Dir. Engineering, Capital Works	125450.28
Treasurer	122492.64
Fire Chief	132545.8
Dir. Leisure Services	102943.32
Man., Human Resources	102158.21
Dir. Public Works	122492.64

Deborah's Boutique
& other neat things

All things nice to pamper yourself
 Lotions, creams, candles diffusers, brie bakers . . .



Hand-painted wine glasses
 Tues-Thurs 11-5
 Fri 11-7, Sat 9-4
 Sun 11-3 closed Mon

247 Ridge Road

Racetrack

... continued from Page 1

province stipulate that grants are for the "continued operation of live racing."

He couldn't speculate what the wind-down costs could amount to, but said they would include things like electricity, gas, water and sewer and other costs.

"It would be different if we ended operations in the middle of the season or the end of the month or the beginning of the month."

Operations for the season are not in question, he said.

"We're in good shape on paper. We had a good year last year and there's a lot of reasons to be optimistic. It's a cash flow problem in the off-season."

The \$5.6 million from the province, which comes from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation and is funneled through the Ontario Racing Commission, is paid in weekly installments. The grant from the Town comes in installments beginning at the first of April.

"Well that's good, but how do we handle cash flow? Nobody gave us any working capital," Thibert said. "We don't spend at the rate of \$100,000 a week. We spend at different rates at different times of the year."

Last year, track owner Isaac Tshuva discounted the lease to \$100,000, but he wants all the money this year.

"The HST on \$650,000 is a lot more than the HST on \$100,000," Thibert said.

As well, the Canadian Parimutuel Agency, which oversees racing to ensure integrity, decided to end "race patrol" with its video cameras, but the ORC confirmed this month that it will require the racetrack to assume that responsibility which comes with a \$125,000 price tag.

Council approved a resolution "committing its unequivocal support" to the consortium and the efforts of the Economic Development and Tourism Corporation to sustain horse racing in Fort Erie, but did not endorse indemnification, only directing the Town solicitor, Heather Salter, to investigate it further.

Indemnification is nothing new for the Town. It is a standard condition that community groups that hold events to "indemnify and save harmless" the Town from any liability as well as demanding that the groups have at least \$2 million in insurance coverage.

PALMWOOD Waterfront Dining
 3923 TERRACE LANE, CRYSTAL BEACH 894-0820

All day, every day
40¢ chicken wings, 50¢ broasted wings

Daily Lunch Specials
Live Entertainment Saturday Nights

Eat in or take out available ... 7 days a week ... 11am-9pm ... Specials are eat-in

Fort Erie's Premier Celebration Destination

Always fresh and affordable daily lunch and dinner specials

The Old Bank
Bistro

Open Monday through Friday
 for Lunch & Dinner
 Open Saturday at 4 p.m. • Closed Sunday
 Reservations Recommended

Visit us on **facebook**

41 Jarvis Street, Fort Erie
 905-994-9222 • www.oldbankbistro.com

Ridgeway Wellness Centre

Chiropractic Massage Foot Care Ion Detox
 Pedicure Ear Candling Aesthetics

355 Ridge Road, Ridgeway • 905.894-1551
 ridgewaywellness@cogeco.net

Stretch your \$ - Come to J.K. Kats

Breakfast Served All Day  10 Varieties of Home-Made Soup

For large, tasty portions, never leave hungry

Great Specials Everyday
Check Out Friday Specials
100% Lean Ground Beef Burgers
Fresh Cut Fries

Specializing in oven-roasted meat for Subs

Next to the Friendship Trail
 282 Ridge Road • 905-894-2500 • Closed Mondays