

Region of Queens Municipality

**Town of Liverpool – Municipality of Queens
1897 1879**

April 1, 1996

History

- **MLA Open Letter to Councils**
- **Municipal Council commences in house study on pros and cons**
- **MLA Approaches Minister to seek support**
- **Minister agrees to appoint a co-ordinator and pick up associated cost**

History

- **Councils agree to Public Meetings with independent panel including financials on recommendation of MLA, Warden & Mayor**
- **Individual interviews with Councilors, selected citizens, individuals in CBRM & HRM involved in those amalgamations**
- **5 Public Meetings**

History

- **Local Media Coverage including Cable TV**
- **Independent Committee reports at well attended public meeting Feb. 21 1995**
- **Councils accept Independent Report**
- **Councils pass mirror motions requesting Minister to appoint co-ordinator**

History

- **MLA introduces legislation May 1995**
- **MLA briefs all parties and requests support**
- **Legislation passes quickly**
- **Co-ordinator John Morash CA appointed by Minister**
- **Co-ordinating Committee established with 2 representatives from each municipality**

History

- **Co-ordinator votes only to break tie**
- **Implementation Plan returned to Councils for successful ratification**
- **Co-ordinator hires CAO Oct. 1, 1995**
- **CAO in co-operation with co-ordinator hires staff**
- **Amalgamation Effected April 1, 1996**

Unanticipated Challenge

- **Closing the books of the old units and opening the books for the new unit proved very time consuming.**
- **In any future amalgamation sufficient substantial additional resources must be available to assist staff.**

Amalgamation Process

Voluntary vs. Forced

Coordinating Committee vs. Coordinator

Private Members Bill vs. Government Bill

Short Time Frame to Complete Tasks

- **Coordinating Committee – July 1, 1995**
- **CAO hired – October 1, 1995**
- **Amalgamation – April 1, 1996**

17 elected officials to 10 after amalgamation.

Staff to be hired from existing units if qualified.

Stats

	1996	2012
Population	12,420	10,917
Assessment	\$473 M	\$981 M
Size	1000 Sq. Miles	
Budget	\$9.7 M	\$21.6 M*
Representation	Council 9	Council 7**
Employees	56 FT	70FT***
First Year (1996/7) Savings:		
<u>Projected</u>		<u>Actual</u>
\$500,000		\$750,000****
Cost of Amalgamation		
<u>Projected</u>		<u>Actual</u>
\$300,000		\$286,784

- * includes operating, capital and water utility
- ** council decreased by 2 effective October 2012
- *** new hires for MSW site and QPEC
- **** includes cost of amalgamation (Province agrees to assume cost of Social Assistance over 3 yr period)

Savings and Efficiencies

Budget Saving – Year 1 - \$750,000

Duplication of effort eliminated

- **Everyone pulling in the same direction**
- **Better utilization of Human Resources- Expertise**
- **All under “One Roof”**
- **Opens up service boundaries/eliminates political boundaries**
- **Standardization – Bylaws, Policies, Practices**
- **No Joint Committees – “Fighting over issues”**
- **26% reduction in staff**
- **RCMP – able to direct officers where needed**

Taxation

- **Base Rate:**

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-
-
-
-
-
-

**Recreation
Policing
Street Lights
Roads
Solid Waste
Fire Protection
Debt**

- **Area Rate:**

-
-
-
-
-

**Road Levy & Sidewalks
New Street Light
Hydrant
Debt**

- **Self-Funding:**

-
-
-
-

**Sewer
Water
Solid Waste Management
Residential Care Facility**

Tax Rates

Rates/Fees Eliminated – Year 1

Liverpool - solid waste - \$153.00 saving per household
(\$200,000)

- BIDC Tax - 22 cents/\$100
(\$28,200)

Milton - Village Rate - 9 cents

Brooklyn - Village Rate - 5 cents
(\$82,321)

Where were rates then and where are they now?

Liverpool

	<u>1995</u>	<u>2012</u>
Residential	2.15	1.84*
Commercial	3.42	2.98*
BIDC	.22	0
Solid Waste Charge	153.00	0

***includes both base and area rates**

Former Municipality

	<u>1995</u>	<u>2012</u>
Residential	.84	.93
Commercial	1.69	2.07
Milton Village	.09	0
Brooklyn Village	.05	0
 <i><u>Area Rates</u></i>		
Milton Community Hall (2 yrs.)	0	4.25 cents
Brooklyn Community	0	4.50 cents

Note: Commercial rate increased the previous four years due to the elimination of business occupancy assessment.

Inflation

- **Allowing for inflation**
- **Liverpool including area rates:**
 - **R \$2.15 in 1996 would be \$2.94 in 2012 (\$1.84 actual)**
 - **C \$3.42 in 1996 " " \$4.67 in 2012 (\$2.98 actual)**
- **Municipality including area rates:**
 - **R \$0.84 in 1996 would be \$1.15 in 2012 (\$0.93 actual)**
 - **C \$1.69 in 1996 " " \$2.31 in 2012 (\$2.07 actual)**
- **16 years with an annual rate of inflation of 1.97%**

Capital Projects

- Secondary Sewage Treatment Plant
- Sewer extension and upgrades – Milton, Brooklyn, Caledonia, Liverpool
- Call Centre Building
- Solid Waste Management Facility
- Water Treatment Plant
- Queens Place Emera Centre
- South Queens VIC

Capital Expenditure & Debt

- **1996**
- **\$1,847,931**
- **2012**
- **\$8.4 million (includes QPEC)**
- **Total capital projects**
- **Over \$60 million**

Reserves

- 1996 \$3,848,926
- 2012 \$11,363,770



That's All Folks