To: All Ontario Municipalities

Re: MPAC Resolution

Council of the Town of Greater Napanee passed the following resolution on May 23, 2006.

WHEREAS the Ombudsman commented on the operations of MPAC in a report issued March 28, 2006;

AND WHEREAS the MPAC Report indicated 22 major areas of concern which included:

1) MPAC has been given a monopoly on the power to assess properties and thereby establish relative rates of taxation;

2) MPAC has failed to ensure that its assessment decisions are accurate and fair, and has undermined the integrity of the Assessment Review Board process through its conduct;

3) The issues of openness and transparency need to be improved; and

4) MPAC’S Customer Contact Centre practices need to be reviewed to ensure property owners have access to those staff who can address their inquiries;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government divested itself of Ontario Property Assessment to create the non-profit Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) on December 31, 1998;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Municipalities now pay $146,054,000 per year for assessment upkeep to MPAC on an annual basis and locally the County will pay $546,144 in 2006 for this service;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Town of Greater Napanee puts forward the following resolution:

THAT the Province of Ontario immediately freeze the base assessment year for Ontario municipalities at 2005, until such time as MPAC has reasonably addressed the Ombudsman’s concerns so that municipalities are not forced to pay for services that might be deemed unreliable or suspect to the general public based on the March 28, 2006 report issued;

AND FURTHER that MPAC make a formal presentation to Ontario Municipalities at the August 2006 AMO conference in Ottawa that outlines MPAC’s work plan and timeframes, to deal with all the issues raised by the Ombudsman;

AND FURTHER that should MPAC fail to report to AMO or fail to comply with their work plan timeframes, that the Province of Ontario rescind the previous government’s decision and bring Property Assessment back underneath the Ministry of Finance;

AND FURTHER this resolution be forwarded to all Ontario Municipalities, Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, Leona Dombrowsky, MPP Hastings-Frontenac-L&A, Debbie Zimmerman, Chair, MPAC Board of Directors; Roger Anderson, President, AMO.

Yours truly,
Rebecca Murphy
Clerk