

Chapter 3: Lower tier government

Lower tier government - Responsibilities

Municipal Functions

- When most of Ontario's municipalities were set up as early as the 1840s, they were needed for specific functions.



- ✓ The big issues that faced them back then were disorderly behaviour, profanity, noises and nuisances, cattle and poultry running in public places, traveling salesmen, and repair of roads.

Land Use Planning

Municipalities exercise their land use planning powers in two main ways:

- They must adopt an ***official plan***. This important document sets out the long term goals for the municipality.
- They can pass a ***zoning by-law***. This spells out specifically how land may be developed within various areas (zones) of the municipality.

Improving the Quality of Life

- Recreational programs, cultural programs, and the arts also support the quality of life.



Other Municipal Services

- Fire Services
- Local roads, sidewalks, street lights
- Pollution control
- Parks and recreation
- Local museums and libraries
- Municipal licensing/permits and building codes
- City owned sewers
- Tax collection
- Local transit
- Traffic and parking
- Local land-use planning



Paying For Services

All of the services we have talked about have a cost. Since money doesn't grow on trees, how do we pay for these services?



Licensing and Permit Fees

Municipalities can require licences for allowing people to carry out a wide range of activities, mostly business-related, for example: licences for operating taxi-cabs.



Building permits are used to regulate building activity and to ensure that construction meets certain standards.

Development Charges

Municipalities can also set **development charges** that apply to each new lot that is created. The purpose of these development charges is to raise money from the developer of the lots that can be used to cover some of the cost for providing services to these lots.

