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Export date: Fri Oct 30 3:47:00 2026 / +0000 GMT

OMPF allotments announced

The recent provincial posting of its 2014 allotments of the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) might have held good news for some municipalities but, in Shelburne's case, it has delayed approval of the town's budget for 2014.

The draft budget had included an estimate of more than $900,000 from OMPF. The awarded amount will be $840,700, or about $100,000 less than had been locally budgeted.

This resulted in a deficit of nearly $80,000. So there'll be a bit of pencil sharpening, and a further budget meeting on Monday.

The OMPF is also the source for county funding of various social programs including Ontario Works and disability support, among other things. In total, the province pays Dufferin a bit more than $3-million for those responsibilities.

The fund has been functioning under its present name since 2005. It was previously known as the Community Reinvestment Fund, or CRF. In February 2005, the provincial government heralded the change as ?a more equitable model,? and as a 6.1% increase in funding to municipalities over 2004.

It began with an infusion of $200-million into the OMPF. Payments to municipalities since the beginning have been on a declining basis, as had been known to municipal treasurers.

For 2014, Shelburne appears to be the largest beneficiary within Dufferin County with $840,700.

It is followed by Mono, $512,700; Grand Valley, $457,400; Mulmur, $345,700; Melancthon, $259,100; Amaranth, $232,600; and East Garafraxa, $203,000.

Oddly, Orangeville appears to have been left out of the mix.

Orangeville treasurer Brian Parrott said there are several areas in which the town doesn't qualify for funding. He will be seeking a current clarification of the ministry's stance.

By Wes Keller