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New Audit Shows Belleville Is Facing \$900,000 Deficit

Inquiry Told Of Increase In Estimate

By WALTER GRAZ

Globe and Mail Staff Reporter

Belleville, Oct. 19—The taxpayers of Belleville learned the awful truth today. The city is going to need not \$225,000 as was first believed, but at least \$900,000 to meet its financial obligations by the end of this year.

The revised figure was presented by J. D. Lewars, city auditor, at the 14th and final day of evidence at a judicial inquiry into the financial affairs of this city of 28,000.

Mr. Lewars informed the commissioner, Judge Arthur Willmott of Cobourg, that he was prepared to support city council and other officials in an application to the Ontario Municipal Board for the necessary assistance.

The \$900,000 represents more than three times the amount Mr. Lewars originally estimated in a special audit prepared last May after the financial mess of the city had been discovered.

This newest audit also estimates a deficit in the revenue fund operations of \$128,500, nearly twice the first estimate and more than three times the estimate presented by mayor Gerald Hyde.