

Council members put forward 2019 budget with 0.94% municipal increase

Bradford West Gwillimbury, ON (*February 1, 2019*) – Members of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury’s Council met to deliberate the 2019 budget, landing on a 1.34% decrease in the municipal portion of the property tax bill. When combined with the Special Capital Levy – which pays for the repair, replacement and rehabilitation of infrastructure like roads and facilities – the increase in the municipal portion of the property tax bill is 0.94% over 2018.

This rate is combined with projected budgets from the County of Simcoe, South Simcoe Police Service and school boards to arrive at a projected overall increase of 2.34%. This amounts to approximately \$104 more to each household based on an average home assessment of \$481,892. These numbers are based on estimates of the County and school board increases, so the final increase will not be known until their property tax rates are announced in mid- to late March

The budget is not final until approved at the next regular council meeting on February 5.

“Council worked hard to ensure that the Town is taking advantage of all opportunities to reduce the tax rate to residents,” said Mayor Rob Keffer. “In 2019 we will use every penny of available grants and funding from other levels of government, use existing reserves where possible and we trimmed budgets across the board.”

Residents who receive water and wastewater services from the Town can expect to see an overall increase for these services of 2.98%.

BWG collects property taxes on behalf of Simcoe County, South Simcoe Police Services and the Province of Ontario for schools. The Town retains approximately 40% of the taxes collected for municipal operating and capital budgets.

The 2019 budget reflects the growing population of the town, with small increases made for: fire and emergency services staff and equipment, rural and urban road improvements, refurbishing two older parks and building a new one in the new Bradford Capital subdivision, and enhancing community safety measures such as traffic calming devices. A detailed “budget-in-brief” will be published after the budget is ratified in February.