

# 2019 BUDGET BULLETIN

Your Tax Dollars at Work



## A Message from the Mayor

What is the value of having parks and trails to enjoy or roads maintained for safe driving? What about the availability of programs for children, teens and adults? What price tag does one put on having a fire truck arrive seconds earlier, potentially saving a life or property?

These are some of the things that are paid for by property taxes. Locally, Halton Hills Town Council approved a 3.9% increase for 2019 – a 2.4%

increase when blended with Halton Region and the Boards of Education. This translates to \$20 on every \$100,000 of residential assessment, with \$14 going towards Town services and \$6 towards the Region including the HRPS.

This increase allows the municipality to maintain all of the existing services and amenities while supporting priorities such as youth needs support, fire response and technology infrastructure.

The tax increase also allocates 24% to reserves - money that the municipality puts aside to pay for capital expenditures such as road construction or facility maintenance. Reserves are like a savings account and having healthy reserves ensures that the Town maintains a strong financial position and is able to respond to unexpected needs or opportunities.

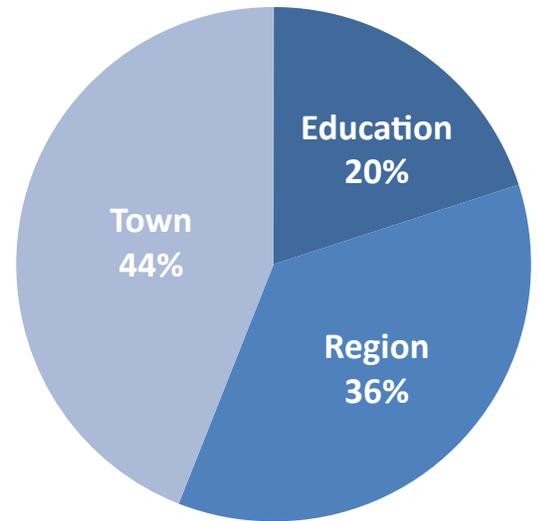
Some residents believe the increase should not exceed the 2% cost of inflation. It is Council's job to weigh this consideration against investing in services to maintain assets and meet the expectations of the community.

What is the cost for having a high quality of living? This doesn't happen by chance – it's the result of careful long range planning (such as Vision Georgetown – the municipality's plan to accommodate 20,000 more people); it comes through taking care of our green spaces through well-crafted policies and active caretaking. It comes from having life-enhancing services such as ActiVan, the seniors and youth centres, a thriving cultural scene and a vibrant economic sector.

As leader of Halton Hills Council, I feel confident that residents are receiving good value for their tax dollars.

Rick Bonnette,  
 Mayor

## Distribution of Residential Tax Dollars



## DID YOU KNOW?

**Capital projects such as new water/wastewater infrastructure (a responsibility of Halton Region) are paid through development charges.**

**Property taxes fund 68% of the Town's operating budget with user fees, service charges and earned interest funding the rest.**

# YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

## ActiVan

A positive 2018 operating surplus coupled with additional monies in the 2019 budget supports the continuance of ActiVan operations. The Town assumed full responsibility in 2018 when the former operator ended their contract. In 2018, the ActiVan service provided over 46,000 trips to seniors and persons with disabilities.

## Fire Services

Community safety and well-being is always a priority and the 2019 budget invested in Fire Services to deliver on this commitment. The Fire Services Master Plan was accelerated to achieve a 24/7 response by adding five full-time firefighters and reducing the reliance on part-time staff. The move serves to eliminate further increases to the Fire Services Levy and will assist in the reduction of response times.

## Parks and Open Space

The 2019 budget builds on the Town's investment in an integrated trail system by adding a trail link from the Maple Creek Parkette to the Hungry Hollow Trail System. Also scheduled for this year are playground replacements at sites such as Robert Little School, maintenance of newly constructed park spaces, construction of three new ball diamonds at Trafalgar Sports Park, a new skatepark in the Gellert Community Park and a new park pavilion in Glen Williams.

## Gellert Community Centre Expansion

Phase 2 of the Gellert Community Centre expansion will begin with design and engineering services in preparation for future construction. The addition will add an estimated 56,000 sq. feet of space to meet increased demand as the community grows.

## Youth Services

To realize Council's commitment to supporting local youth, 2019 investments include construction of dedicated space in Acton (in the former Acton Town Hall), expanded hours and programming at both youth centres and additional services/support for addictions and mental health. The youth taxi script was also expanded to provide transportation for up to 24 years of age.

## Planning Studies

The Town carries out planning studies in order to make land use decisions, protect natural heritage and manage change within the municipality with the objective to build a healthy and sustainable community. Several studies are reaching key milestones in 2019 in order to achieve this objective, including the Destination Downtown Study, Vision Georgetown Secondary Plan and the Premier Gateway Phase 1B Secondary Plan.

## Roads & Traffic Safety

Each year, the Town develops a Pavement Management Plan and identifies the roads and associated work (repaving, grading). In 2019, some of the scheduled infrastructure projects include the reconstruction of Armstrong Avenue with the construction of a multi-use path to promote active transportation; the extension and reconstruction of Halton Hills Drive and resurfacing of 5 Side Road from Trafalgar Rd to Winston Churchill Blvd.

To improve pedestrian safety, pedestrian crossings will be installed on Armstrong Avenue at Sinclair Avenue and on Delrex Boulevard at Centennial Middle School.

Town of Halton Hills 2019 Tax Levy Increases Comparison

