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Homeowners to see tax increase Town budget hiked 5.9%

By CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

Local taxes will be going up \$22 per \$100,000 of residential assessment after the Town's budget committee approved the 2013 operating budget Monday night.

The committee— all members of council— unanimously supported the slightly more than \$35 million budget, which represents a 5.9% increase.

Combined with Region (0.8%) and education (0%) taxes, the overall impact on taxpayers' wallets is a 2.6% increase or \$25/\$100,000 of residential assessment.

"It's never easy but we've stayed on course.... Everyone has their wish lists but we've kept it at 5.9%," said Mayor Rick Bonnette, chair of the budget committee, who earlier sent a memo to councillors telling them if they wanted to add something to the budget they had to find a similar item in the budget to cut.

The Town's budget is comprised of a 2.9% base budget increase to maintain existing service levels, plus four dedicated levies: 1.2% Fire Levy; 0.9% Special Infrastructure Levy; 0.7% Library Operating Levy and 0.2% Arena Levy.

This is the last year for the Special Infrastructure Levy and the Library Operating Levy (used to phase in the tax impact of opening two new libraries).

The Arena Levy, created to raise funds for financing of three ice pads, begins this year

See TOWN, pg. 8



Photos by Ted Brown

New-look library set to open

The \$13.2 million Georgetown library/Cultural Centre now boasts 34,400 sq. ft. of renovated and expanded space. While the official opening, with planned activities and special guest is set for Saturday, Jan. 26, Halton Hills Director of Library Services, Jane Diamanti took a moment to relax Wednesday with a friend as library staff prepared to open the doors to the public tomorrow (Friday). (Inset) Diamanti overlooks the new entrance with its impressive window.

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