

Base budget increase is 2.8%

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The budget maintains existing services with slight levels of improvement, including the addition of crossing guards, snow removal of embankments at the end of Mountainview Rd. S. driveways, snow clearing of park pathways and support persons for people with disabilities participating in recreation programs. The committee increased the seniors' tax grant by \$25, to \$425 to help senior homeowners pay their bills.

The committee also approved a staff report recommending a \$64,000 provincial funding grant be directed towards the senior centres' staffing needs.

Two-thirds of the Town's budget comes from

taxation (assessment grew by only 0.8 % or \$207,000), with the remainder drawn from Recreation and Parks revenues (hiked by an average 3 per cent or \$112,000), corporate revenues (down this year by \$183,000) and building and development fees.

The budget includes a 2.8% base budget increase, 0.6 % special fire levy to pay for the two fire stations, 1.1% special infrastructure levy to be used for Town building/road projects, and 0.4% special library operating levy to go towards the future operating costs of the two new libraries.

Budget committee approved \$21,100 in additional items, which was offset by lowering the surplus contribution to the reserves. Those

items included the seniors' tax grant increase (\$1,600), the addition of a crossing guard at the Danby Rd. roundabout (\$7,100), increased con-

tribution to 2010 election reserve (\$9,400), lease of an automated vote counting equipment, and a voters' list computer program (\$1,200).

2010 tax bill at a glance

(per \$100,000 of property assessment)

	2009 FINAL BUDGET	2010 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
TOWN	\$357	\$375	\$18	4.9%
REGION	\$425	\$425	\$0	0.0%
EDUCATION	\$252	\$252	\$0	0.0%
TOTAL	\$1,034	\$1,052	\$18	1.7%

The average home in Halton Hills is assessed at \$320,000. To calculate taxes for that home multiply 3.2X\$1,052= \$3,366.

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