

## Regional Council unanimously approves a 0.2% property tax reduction for Regional programs and services



by Regional Chair Gary Carr

On January 26, Halton Regional Council unanimously approved the Region's 2011 Budget and Business Plan, delivering a 0.2% tax reduction for Regional programs and services.

This is the second consecutive year the Region has not increased property taxes for its services, while continuing to invest in important programs for its residents.

The 2011 budget is focused on maintaining and enhancing core services and programs for the community, without increasing property taxes.

Council remains committed to providing effective Regional programs and services including infrastructure (e.g. Regional roads and water and wastewater facilities), social services, and public health.

Among the enhancements to programs and services, the 2011 budget supports Halton's social infrastructure with additional investments, including:

- \$1.5 million increase in funding to support the goal of creating 60 to 100 new social housing units each year
- \$713,500 to leverage existing social housing units to reduce wait lists
- Two additional paramedics to improve ambulance services using a new Emergency Response Unit

The budget also includes over \$130 million for transportation projects and over \$50 million to maintain existing water and sewer plants and pipes, while managing operating cost pressures including the cost of hydro.

When combined with the 4.4% increase in the Halton Regional Police Service budget, Halton taxpayers will see an increase of 1.4% on the total Regional property

tax bill. For a typical household with current value assessment of \$350,000 this equates to an increase of \$18.76 for 2011.

Regional Council also approved the rate-supported water and wastewater 2011 budget with a combined increase of 4.1% for Halton residents and businesses. For a typical household using 300 cubic metres of water per year, this equates to an increase of \$31.10 over 2010 levels.

I am proud to say that over the last five years, the average annual tax increase for Regional programs and services has been approximately half a per cent - one of the lowest among municipalities in Canada.

To view the 2011 Budget and Business Plan visit [www.halton.ca/budget](http://www.halton.ca/budget).

### Investing in Halton's Social Infrastructure

- A \$1.5 million increase in funding to support the goal of creating 60 to 100 new social housing units each year
- The opening of two new social housing developments with 145 units for seniors (scheduled to open in November 2011)
- \$713,500 to leverage existing social housing units to reduce social housing wait lists
- Increased supports to low-income residents including \$335,000 to address priority community needs and delivery of the Healthy Smiles Ontario dental program
- \$221,500 to relocate and expand the Burlington health clinic
- Two additional paramedics to improve ambulance services using a new Emergency Response Unit which will operate 12 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to emergencies in Halton

## Significant Investment In Halton's Infrastructure

**Over \$130 million for transportation projects, including improvements to:**

- James Snow Parkway in Milton (\$29.4M)
- Burnhamthorpe Road in Oakville (\$23.2M)
- Dundas Street in Burlington and Oakville (\$13.0M)
- Regional Road 25 in Milton (\$12.9M)
- Steeles Avenue in Milton (\$10.0M)
- Tremaine Road in Milton (\$9.3M)
- Trafalgar Road in Halton Hills (\$5.1M)
- Winston Churchill Boulevard in Halton Hills (\$5.0M)
- Ninth Line in Oakville (\$5.0M)

**Over \$50 million for water and wastewater infrastructure projects, including:**

- Washburn Booster Station Rehabilitation in Burlington (\$8.25M)
- Filter Building Upgrade at the Oakville Water Plant (\$3.73M)
- A new watermain on New Street from Appleby Line to Cumberland Avenue in Burlington (\$3.27M)

### Halton Region Meeting Schedule

**Mar. 22, 9:30 a.m.** Health & Social Services Cte  
**Mar. 23, 9:30 a.m.** Planning & Public Works Cte  
**Mar. 23, 1:30 p.m.** Administration & Finance Cte  
**Mar. 30, 9:30 a.m.** Regional Council  
 Meetings can be viewed at [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca).

Please let us know as soon as possible if you will have an accessibility or accommodation need at a Halton Region hosted event or meeting.

This page has been donated by this newspaper to communicate important information to Halton residents at no cost to taxpayers.