

## Council approves 2012 budget—0% tax increase for Regional programs and services



by Regional Chair Gary Carr

In December, Halton Regional Council approved the Region's 2012 Budget and Business Plan, delivering a zero per cent tax rate increase for Regional programs and services. This is the third consecutive year the

Region has not increased taxes for its services, while maintaining service levels in a growing community. Regional services account for approximately 25 per cent of the residential property tax bill received by Halton residents.

The Region's 10-year capital budget totals \$3.7 billion. The 2012 capital expenditure program of \$689.9 million represents one of the Region's largest, including a **\$670.9 million investment in infrastructure**. This funding will be used to upgrade, expand and rehabilitate Halton's infrastructure, including roads (\$159.6 million), water and wastewater plants and distribution systems (\$504.8 million), and waste management sites (\$6.5 million).

The 2012 capital budget identifies the funding requirements for the work identified through the recently approved Transportation and Water/Wastewater Master Plans. Over the next 20 years, new and improved transportation and water/wastewater infrastructure will ensure Halton continues to provide safe and efficient roads and water supply to meet the demands of our community.

In addition, the 2012 budget will re-invest in social services programs to support some of Halton's low income residents. The Region will use **\$4.9 million** to provide initiatives, including approximately 200 to 220 rent supplements (\$1.6 million), the delivery of between 80 to 100

### Halton Region Tax Rates for Regional Programs and Services 2007 to 2012

Halton Regional Council is conscious of keeping taxes low for our residents. In the past six years, Halton Region has one of the best records in all of Canada for keeping taxes low on our Regional programs and services.

<b>2012</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>0.2% reduction</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>1.7% increase</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>0.6% reduction</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>0.9% increase</b>

new affordable housing units (\$1.8 million), and increased supports to low-income residents in the form of food assistance and transit passes (\$250,000).

### Water and Wastewater Rate Budget

Regional Council also approved the rate-supported water and wastewater 2012 budget in December, with a combined rate increase of 3.5 per cent for Halton residents and businesses. Water and wastewater services are not paid from property taxes but through users who are billed by the local hydro companies based on the volume of water they consume.

To view the 2012 Budget and Business Plan visit [www.halton.ca/budget](http://www.halton.ca/budget).

## Highlights of the 2012 Budget

### Significant infrastructure projects in the 2012 budget include:

- \$223.5 million for an expansion at the Mid Halton Wastewater Treatment Plant in Oakville
- \$53.1 million for a new watermain from Burloak pumping station to Kitchen Reservoir in Oakville
- \$20.1 million to widen Ninth Line in Oakville
- \$19.5 million to widen Dundas Street in Oakville
- \$49.9 million for a new wastewater main on a new road alignment from Lower Base Line to Third Line in Milton
- \$17.5 million for a new water main from Burloak Water Purification Plant to Burloak Zone 2 Booster Pumping Station in Burlington
- \$11.9 million for a new water main on Trafalgar Road from Britannia Road to new Zone 4 Reservoir in Halton Hills

### The 2012 budget also focuses on maintaining service levels for the growing community with several new initiatives, including:

- \$557,500 for one additional 12-hour ambulance and five new paramedics to respond to emergencies
- \$273,000 for resources to support economic development in Halton
- \$114,700 for enhanced waste services in apartment buildings

### Halton Region Meeting Schedule

<b>Feb. 8, 9:30 a.m.</b>	Regional Council - cancelled
<b>Feb 20</b>	Offices closed for Family Day
<b>Feb. 21, 9:30 a.m.</b>	Health & Social Services Committee
<b>Feb. 22, 9:30 a.m.</b>	Planning & Public Works Committee
<b>Feb. 22, 1:30 p.m.</b>	Administration & Finance Committee
<b>Feb. 29, 9:30 a.m.</b>	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.

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To view the 2012 Budget and Business Plan visit [www.halton.ca/budget](http://www.halton.ca/budget)