

# Town releases early Halton Hills property tax estimates for 2018

GRAEME FRISQUE  
gfrisque@metroland.com

Halton Hills council has begun the 2018 budget process and have received some preliminary estimates from staff, including an early indication of what residents might expect to pay in property taxes next year.

According to a staff report presented to council at its regular meeting on Monday, Aug. 28, the initial estimates are calling for a 2.4 per cent overall hike to \$878 per \$100,000 of assessed residential value. That figure is up \$21 over 2017's tax bill.

It is important to note these estimates may change as the budget process continues throughout the rest of year.

Property taxes are divided among the town, Halton Region and a portion for ed-

ucation. The Town of Halton Hills receives 43.8 per cent of your property tax dollars, with Halton Region receiving 35.8 per cent and 20.4 per cent for the education portion of the bill.

According to these early estimates, the town's portion is increasing from \$370 in 2017 to \$385 in 2018, or 3.9 per cent. The region's portion is estimated to rise by \$6 to \$314 - a two per cent increase. The education portion of the property tax bill is currently estimated to remain the same as last year at \$179.

The report also offers initial estimates on the town's overall operating budget. The net operating levy, which also includes the fire services levy, is currently pegged at \$46,679,200. If that number remains static through the end of the budget process, it would represent a 3.9 per

cent increase over 2017.

According to 2017 figures, Halton Hills residents paid less on average than what residents of other municipalities were on the hook for last year. The average property tax bill in Halton Hills was \$3,427 last year, which is below the median of \$3,859 and the average of \$4,005.

The report makes a couple of assumptions including hydro cost increases and the incoming minimum wage hike in the new year, which will increase labour costs. The report also assumes modest tax income growth, mainly in the residential sector.

The Capital Budget Committee will meet Nov. 15 and 16, with council consideration planned for Nov. 27. The Operating Budget Committee is slated to meet Dec. 4 and 5, with a council vote planned for Dec. 11.

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