

Council continues trend of low tax levy increase

For the third year in a row, Council set a tax levy target of 3.9 per cent for the Town's portion—a challenge met by staff through careful planning and analysis.

"It's been a tough budget year," acknowledged Mayor Bonnette. "But I have to give kudos to our CAO and the rest of our incredible staff who presented a budget that balances needs with service demands. I think it is important to note that the Town has held its increase to 3.9 per cent for three consecutive years, and coupled with Halton Region and the school board, the overall increase is just 2.4 per cent!"

The budget process began in June and received final approval from Town Council on December 11. "The modest assessment growth in the industrial and commercial sectors—one of the lowest in a number of years—coupled with many non-discretionary increases, prompted numerous discussions regarding priorities and the decisions we must make to meet Council's directed tax levy target," said Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer.

Legislated requirements and inflationary increases arising from utilities, supplies, and the Town's benefits provid-

ers all contributed to the 2018 budget pressures. The 2018 Operating Budget addressed a number of Council initiatives including enhanced customer service and communications, the Public Art program, the Cultural Master Plan, the Fire Master Plan, the Corporate Energy Plan, tax relief for eligible seniors and the continuance of operations at the Off the Wall and Open Door Youth Centres.

The Town has been successful in keeping its own tax levy to a modest 3.9 per cent since 2016. In previous years, the rate fluctuated from 4.9 per cent to a high of 7.3 per cent in 2011.



CHRISTMAS RECIPES

with Jessica Wilson

The New Tanner's Jessica Wilson will be sharing some of her favourite holiday recipes (great for cookie exchanges or for when company drops in) in this seasonal feature.

Kris Kringle Cookies

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|-----------|----------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| 1 cup | butter, softened | 1 tsp | baking soda |
| 1 cup | sugar | 1/2 tsp | salt |
| 2 lrg | eggs | 1 cup | white chocolate chips |
| 1 tsp | pure vanilla extract | 1 cup | dried cranberries |
| 2 1/4 cup | all purpose flour | | |

1. Heat oven to 375 F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper
2. Beat butter and sugar in large bowl with mixer until light and fluffy
3. Blend in eggs and vanilla. Add flour, baking soda and salt; mix well. Stir in white chocolate chips and cranberries
4. Drop rounded spoonfuls (about 2 tablespoons) of dough 1-1/2 inches apart, onto baking sheet

5. Bake for about 9 minutes. Cool on baking sheet for about 1 minute and remove to wire rack to cool completely

Makes 37 cookies



Approved by Santa
The "Magic" is how quickly they "disappear"

What Child is This?

A CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM

What would it have been like to witness the arrival of a baby who would save the world? The Shepherd, the Wise Man, Mary, and Joseph each examine the question, "What child is this?"

Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24, 6:30 p.m.

What Child is This?

Christmas Day: Monday, December 25, 10 a.m.

Christmas Day Worship



BETHEL CHURCH
365 Queen St., Acton
www.actonccrc.com
facebook.com/TheBethelBunch

halton.ca 311 Twitter Facebook LinkedIn YouTube

Christmas Day: Household Waste Collection Notice

Please note collection day changes.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 24	Christmas Day 25	26	27	Area A, B & C Collection moves	Area D Collection moves	30

Please place your waste at the curb by 7 a.m. on your scheduled holiday collection day.

Halton Waste Management Site (HWMS)

HWMS is closed

Monday, December 25

and Monday, January 1

Regular operating hours:
Monday to Saturday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

5400 Regional Road 25, Milton

Reduce your holiday waste

Blue Box

- Aluminum foil and trays
- Aluminum food and pop cans
- Boxed beverage containers
- Plastic bottles
- Plastic plates and cups

Green Cart

- Tissue paper (free of tape, glitter and confetti)
- Paper plates, cups and napkins
- Turkey, including bones
- Buns and stuffing

Garbage

- Plastic cutlery
- "Compostable" plastic cups and cutlery
- Styrofoam
- Plastic wrap

- Reuse old gift wrap, gift bags, bows and ribbon
- Make hand-made gifts

- Wrap presents in newspaper or magazines
- Donate old household items

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