

Town user fees will see increase starting Jan. 1

Once again Town charges and user fees will go up effective January 2016.

Halton Hills Council approved the fee changes at the December Council meeting. The money generated from these fees are an important source of revenue for the Town, helping to offset an increase in the taxpayer-portion of the budget.

The majority of departments applied a general 2-3 per cent index on their fees with some exceptions:

- Finance: higher fees for services requiring postage and paper/printing.
- No changes to the Fire Services charges related Open Air Burning and Preventable False Alarms.
- Clerks: There is an average of 2% increase overall within the fees associated with business licenses. The 2% increase is in keeping with the fees charged by neighbouring municipali-

ties, and in a number of cases are lower than neighbouring municipalities.

- Building Services: Except for the building permit fees for three categories of new residential buildings all other Building Services fees have been increased by 2.0%. As per the Building Code Act the

building permit fees must not exceed the anticipated reasonable costs of the principal authority to administer and enforce the Act. Accordingly, no increase of the permit fees for the new single, semi and town houses (any area) has been proposed for the year 2016 as it was estimated that the current fees cover the actual costs of the issuance of permits and performing the mandatory inspections for the said categories of buildings.

- Engineering: A new fee has been established for Municipal Access

Agreements. This is an annual administration fee of \$5,000 that will be used for the planning, review and co-ordination process of any plan with the Town's Right-of-way.

Recreation and Parks: Town's fees fall generally in the medium to high ranges of the regional rate comparisons so here are the following exceptions to a zero % increase:

- Park rentals - Rates have been adjusted in the range of 0 to 6% to bring the rates in line with the proportional premiums/discounts offered to non-local and youth groups.
- Lights - Sportsfield lighting has been increased by 3% due to area market conditions and operating costs.
- Event Support - Loan of equipment, event clean up, mobile

vendors permit, garbage bags, portable bleacher rental and snow fence supply have had an increase of 3% due to area market conditions or increased materials costs.

- Sportsfields - Local and non-local rates have been kept at 3% to bring the rates in line with the proportional premiums/discounts offered to Adult local, non-local and youth groups.

Staff has completed a thorough internal analysis and market compari-

son of swimming passes and reduced most pass fees by 5-20% to encourage better uptake and value for fee for each pass.

- Hall and meeting room space rental rates have been reviewed and adjusted by 1.5%.

• Cemeteries: Rates have increased by 3% in line with the regional comparators.

The Town will review all of its rates and user fees in a study in 2016.



Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season.

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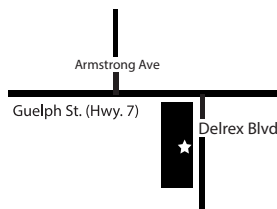
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