

► COUNCIL

HALTON REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES 2019 BUDGET, 1.9 PER CENT PROPERTY TAX HIKE

Halton Regional Council has approved its 2019 budget of \$421.3 million, which includes a property tax hike of 1.9 per cent, as well as a 3.7 per cent increase for water and wastewater services.

On Jan. 9, regional departments, police services and conservation authorities presented their budget overviews and business plans for the year, which were subsequently approved by council on Jan. 16.

The 2019 budget highlights include the following increases to regional services:

\$7.7 million to support water and wastewater infrastructure

\$1.9 million to support regional roads

\$791,000 for waste management contracts due to inflation, tonnage growth and organics market pressures.

\$777,000 for road maintenance contracts, including \$100,000 for three new red light cameras.

\$431,000 for additional relief resources in paramedic services and services for seniors.

\$380,000 to maintain regional facilities.

\$305,000 to leverage provincial funding allocated for 2019 to prevent and address homelessness.

\$300,000 strategic investment to increase funding for programs that support the health, safety and well-being of Halton residents.

\$272,000 to support the Emerald Ash Borer program implementation by Conservation Halton and Credit Valley Conservation.

\$252,000 for water and wastewater maintenance increases due to inflation.

"This budget will help us maintain a high quality of life in the community as we prepare our strategic plan for the new term of council," Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr said. "It ensures maximum value for taxpayers and lays the foundation for new initiatives in the near future. It also continues our 12-year track record of keeping property tax increases at or below the rate of inflation to help individuals, families and businesses succeed."



By Cory Soal R.H.A.D.

... Lend Me Your Ears

WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT FROM HEARING INSTRUMENTS! PART 2

* Understanding speech is a brain function and although the hearing instruments will give your brain the tools it needs to understand speech, it takes training and patience to improve your ability to understand.

* Different listening situations will offer different abilities to understanding. Noisy situations are harder to hear conversation even for normal hearing individuals; hearing instruments should improve your ability, but will not allow you to perform as a normal hearing individual.

* Many sounds that you hear will sound different, or more distinct, to you. This is because your diminished hearing over a long period of time has trained your brain to accept the slight differences in the sounds you normally hear. Wearing hearing instruments will bring back the original sounds as they should be heard, although different to you. With time your brain will accept the new changes to these sounds.

* Hearing instruments should allow you to understand speech better in most situations than without your hearing instruments.

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