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COUNCIL

TOWN APPROVES 3.9 PER CENT TAX INCREASE

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The Town of Halton Hills has approved the 2021 budget with a local tax increase of 3.9 per cent.

This increase is expected to result in a 2.4 per cent increase to the blended tax rate when combined with forecasted tax changes at Halton Region and the school board levels.

Overall, based on 2016 MPAC's Current Value Assessment of \$623,500 for the average residential property, Halton Hills residents can expect to see their property taxes increased by about \$118 in 2021.

With the rate approved at the Dec. 6 Budget Committee meeting, the Town Council will ratify the decision next week.



Metroland file photo

Halton Hills residents can expect to see their property taxes increased by about \$118 in 2021.

"Despite challenges of having the lowest assessment growth in three years, a 46 per cent increase in insurance premiums, and lower user fee revenues," Moya Leighton, Town Treasurer said, "Town staff has been successful in presenting a budget that recognizes Coun-

cil's priorities, preserves cash flow and advances key initiatives."

The impacts of COVID-19 would be tracked outside of the budget and the municipality would leverage all available funding from the provincial and federal governments.

Through 2021, the Town will continue to reduce costs where possible to match changes in revenue, defer the capital program to manage cash flows and draw on reserves to fund shortfalls.

"I recognize this has been a challenging year with the impacts of COVID-19 adding an additional layer of pressure," Mayor Rick Bonnette said. "I am very pleased with the work that staff has done to put forward a realistic and reasonable budget that meets the needs of this community."

Last year, the Town approved the lowest tax-levy increase since 2001, at 3.1 per cent.

legal matters | REAL ESTATE LAW

ASK THE PROFESSIONAL

We work for you.



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Q What is bridge financing?

A A bridge loan is a temporary loan obtained when the closing date for your purchase comes before the closing date for your sale. Usually, when you are buying and selling, you rely on the sale proceeds to fund the purchase. Often you will arrange both closing dates to be on the same day, so your sale closes and then you are able to close your purchase. However, if you would like to close your purchase before your sale, you would obtain a bridge loan for the time in between, whether it is for just one day or a number of weeks. The interest rate is a little higher than it would be for conventional bank mortgage, but the benefits may be worth the extra cost. For instance, this process allows you to stretch out your moving-in over more than one day. Also, it avoids the dilemma of having your sale not go through quickly or at all, which results in your purchase being delayed or derailed.

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Holiday Hours: Dec 24th 9:30am - 4pm • CLOSED Dec 25, 26, 27 & 28th.
Dec 29 & 30 regular hours • Dec 31st (New Years Eve) 10am - 4pm
January 1, 2, 3, 4 CLOSED

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