

Guelph/Eramosa Council Passes 2014 Budget

BRUCEDALE, Ontario, April 7, 2014 – At the regular meeting of Council on April 7, 2014, Guelph/Eramosa Council approved the Operating and Capital Budgets for 2014. The budget provides for a blended 2.11% increase on the total tax bill. For the average home in Guelph/Eramosa, this represents a total annual increase of \$87.54 or \$7.30 per month.

The Township's portion of the tax bill provides funding for many services, including 24/7 fire and emergency services, maintenance and snowplowing of 222 kilometres of roads, maintenance of many parks and open spaces, as well as capital projects.

The Township's total operating costs are increasing by \$355,540 this year. About two-thirds of this amount is directly related to significant increases in winter maintenance costs, clean up from the ice storm and a decline in the provincial grant to the municipality. While the province has promised to provide funding to offset the eligible costs of December's ice storm, the \$260,000 in disaster relief funding has not been received and is not included in this budget.

"Our goal as Council and staff was to deliver a responsible budget that holds the line on operating expenses", said Mayor Chris White, "we are pleased to get a blended rate of 2.11% for our ratepayers while facing the realities of significant storm cleanup and a long, challenging winter."

2014 Capital highlights include:

- Reconstruction of Speedvale Avenue, from CR 32 to City of Guelph limits
- Paving on Dowler, Shanley, Henry and Station Street W. in Rockwood
- Wastewater infrastructure upgrades at Skyway Drive, Alma Street, and Valley Road

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