

The Corporation of the Town of Thessalon

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Message from the Council of the Town of Thessalon

The Council of the Town of Thessalon has received requests from our residents for further information on our budget as well as an update on our achievements.

Over the past few years, the following has been accomplished with the residential tax rate increases being kept to a minimum:

- the reconstruction of Frances Street,
- the reconstruction of Lakeside Drive
- the paving along Dawson Street
- the paving along north end of water street
- the installation of electronic speed signs
- the installation of lighted entrance signage,
- the installation of wayfinding signage,
- the completion of a washroom/changeroom at Lakeside Beach
- the revitalization of the ski/hiking trail
- the acquisition of 8.63 acres of property for development on the north side of Highway 17

At the September 20, 2021 regular meeting, the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended to Council the option of lowering the Multi-Residential and the Commercial tax ratios in order to bring the Town's tax rates more in line with the surrounding municipalities. Therefore, the 2022 budget reflects a 25.167% reduction to the Multi Residential class and a 6.997% reduction to the Commercial class while keeping the residential and industrial class increases lower than 1%.

The 2022 budget has been passed with the following rate percentage increases/decreases:

Residential	Increase of 0.203
Commercial	Decrease of 6.997
Industrial	Increase of 0.17
Multi-Residential	Decrease of 25.167

In fact, our residential taxes are actually 1.726 percent lower than our 2011 tax rates.

The 2022 budget includes, but is not limited to the following projects:

- the design for the reconstruction of Huron Street West
- the reconstruction of River Road including upgraded guiderails
- the completion of a washroom/changeroom at Peace Park
- the renovation of the Fire Hall
- the renovation of the older Marina building
- the reconstruction of the sewer manhole on Lighthouse Point Drive
- the preliminary development of a coastal trail

Although enjoyed both by residents of the Town and surrounding communities, the operation and maintenance of the following facilities are solely funded by the Town of Thessalon residents:

- Thessalon Medical Centre
- Thessalon Fitness Room
- Thessalon Fire Department
- Thessalon Peace Park
- Thessalon Riverside Park
- Thessalon Memorial Community Arena
- Thessalon Lakeside Park
- Thessalon Marina
- Fleron Park
- Pollination Park
- Pinger Ball Field
- Bunny Ball Field
- Thessalon Cenotaph Park

As well, the Town of Thessalon residents also provide support for Doctor Recruitment, the Thessalon Library Board, the Tri-Neighbours Board of Management, the Thessalon Town and Township Cemetery Board, the Thessalon Curling Club, the Food Bank, the Humane Society, the Great Lakes Trails, Central Algoma Fresh Water Coalition, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, Crimestoppers, etc.

Also, the Town offers a broad spectrum of activities such as an Easter egg hunt, a fishing derby, a Halloween party, the community gardens, a Canada Day celebration, the Community Days weekend along with the fireworks display, a car show, the seniors' luncheon, a seniors' Christmas bus tour, a Santa skate, the soccer program, the minor ball program, the swim program, etc.

It is important to note that the Town of Thessalon has the second lowest residential assessment base of the surrounding municipalities.

Council has initiated the completion of numerous funding applications which have been made available in the last few years. The Town has been very successful with its efforts in securing financial support from both the Federal and Provincial governments.

The following shows the Town's budgeted revenue sources to cover annual expenditures for both the 2021 and 2022 years:

Revenue Sources to Cover Expenditures		
Description	2021	2022
Raised By Taxes	20%	27%
Raised By Services	14%	22%
Raised By Reserve Usage	10%	14%
Raised By Grants Receivable	56%	37%

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Council has remained steadfast and showed due diligence in providing not only the core services consisting of roads, bridges, water and sewer, etc., but has offered all of the above-mentioned services and amenities as well.

As this term draws to a close, Council would like to thank the residents for your support and cooperation through the last four (4) years.