



Port Hope Encourages all Ratepayers to Participate in Municipal Taxation Review

October 17 2013

Community input vital to taxation review process

PORT HOPE, ON . With Municipal Taxation under review, community input is a key component and Council is urging all Port Hope ratepayers to participate in the process.

An Open House will be held on Monday, October 21st from 7:00 . 9:00pm at the Town Park Recreation Centre with a presentation at 7:30 pm. Council members and Staff will be in attendance to provide information and answer questions. Information is available at www.porthope.ca and all Municipal facilities.

Mayor Linda Thompson stated, %Taxation review will ultimately affect all ratepayers in the Municipality and it is important that the community participates in the process. The six options being presented were developed as a launching point for dialogue and we encourage everyone to review the information and send us their comments.+

As noted in the Municipality's media release of October 8th, Port Hope's Municipal taxation model is being reviewed to revise the approach put in place in 2001. The formula implemented at amalgamation calculated separate tax rates for Ward 1 and Ward 2 using weighted assessment and pre-amalgamation operating expenses (Ward 1 at 85.8% and Ward 2 at 14.2%) for the Town of Port Hope and the Township of Hope to establish the ratio. The amalgamation formula did not reflect that all residents of the new Municipality had equal access to and share the costs of facilities and services provided by the Municipality nor did it allow flexibility for changes to services, costs and legislation over time. The amalgamation formula was approved by the new Council to move forward with taxation and cover transactions during the transition period on the understanding that it was to be reviewed within 5 years.

Six options have been developed for a Common Plus Special Services approach. In accordance with the Municipal Act, all Municipal services are deemed common to all ratepayers and a common tax rate would be applied to all properties, based on weighted assessment. Where a service is not being provided throughout the Municipality, or is being provided at different levels or in a different manner in different parts of the Municipality, it can be considered a %special service+and a separate, additional rate is applied to each area for those special services. Proximity to or frequency of use of any service is not a consideration of whether it is considered a common service, the determination is made solely on the basis of whether or not a service or facility is accessible and available to a group of taxpayers.

Using 2013 as the base year, and residential property as an example, the Common Plus Special Services approach once fully implemented, would result in a 7% decrease (\$66 per \$100,000 in weighted assessment) on the Municipal portion of Ward 1 tax bills. Ward 2 properties would see a 46.9% increase (\$207 per \$100,000 in weighted assessment) on the Municipal portion of the property tax bill.

All comments received by November 15, 2013 will be considered in the development of a report to Committee of the Whole on November 26, 2013 outlining recommendations for a Municipal taxation approach for 2014 and beyond.

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