



GEORGINA

Media Release

Town of Georgina Corporate Communications
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Georgina Council approves 2021 budget

Georgina, ON – Georgina Council has approved the 2021 budget, which was developed with a commitment to ensuring the Town can continue to provide a high level of service while minimizing the impact of tax increases on residents and businesses. It includes a 0.95 per cent increase for the 2021 tax levy budget with an additional 0.50 per cent increase for contributions to capital reserves for a total of 1.45 per cent. The increase translates into an estimated property tax increase of \$30 a year for an average home (non-waterfront) with an assessed value of \$402,995.

“Navigating the many changes the COVID-19 pandemic has brought throughout 2020 has been challenging. The Town has had to adjust course and make difficult choices in terms of its financial situation,” said Mayor Margaret Quirk. “The 2021 budget reflects our efforts to ensure a sustained economic recovery and that the Town will have the tools in place to address future financial pressures. This includes a clear focus on improving service delivery, managing growth, and delivering services more effectively and efficiently.”

Highlights from the budget include:

- \$2 million for resurfacing, maintenance and rehabilitation of roads
- \$1.7 million for water and wastewater infrastructure (Morton Street watermain construction, sewer rehabilitation, repair and replacements, water meter change out)
- \$1 million for Building Condition Assessment Program for repairs and rehabilitations of facilities
- \$850,000 to replace a fire tanker apparatus
- \$760,000 on information technology projects (telephone systems and enabling increased online self-serve options for residents)
- \$240,000 for West Park to address safety concerns

Council also approved the 2021 water and wastewater budget, which will see an increase of 1.5 per cent or \$3.48 for the average quarterly billing. Council chose to provide financial relief on water rates in 2021 by approving 1.5 per cent instead of the forecast five per cent.

“The financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will be felt by municipalities for the foreseeable future,” said Rob Wheater, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer. “The 2021 budget was developed with a commitment to ensuring the Town can continue to provide a high level of service to residents while working together towards a strong economic recovery.”

The Town promoted a number of opportunities to encourage public engagement and received resident input into the 2021 budget from an online survey and dedicated email.

The total 2021 property tax rates for all levels of government will not be determined until early April, following the tax rate setting by York Region and the Ministry of Education for their portion of the property tax bill.

Visit [georgina.ca/budget](https://www.georgina.ca/budget) to learn more.

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