

Media Release



Town of Aurora Corporate Communications

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, May 27, 2015

Town of Aurora approves \$74 million 2015 Budget Combined tax levy impact to homeowners is 2.69 percent

Aurora, ON – Aurora Town Council has approved a 2015 Budget that includes \$56 million to operate Town of Aurora programs and services. These expenses are funded with \$37 million of property taxes, with the balance from user fees, fines and charges. Council previously approved a further \$18 million Capital Budget in March, to build and maintain roads, water lines and other infrastructure.

The Town's Water and Sewer budget was approved in April with a total expenditure budget of \$18.4 million for the supply and distribution of these important utility services, which are funded by separate user rates from the water bills.

"I am pleased to see that our new Council has kept Aurora on the prudent financial path established last term, by investing in critical areas and constraining spending where needs were less pressing," said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. "As our focus shifts to multi-year planning, we will have an increasing ability to strategically manage our budgets annually and over the long term."

"Multi-year budgeting will be a crucial tool as we, like many other communities across Ontario, grapple with increased costs associated with emergency services," continued Mayor Dawe. "While I am committed to continuing to provide quality fire protection to our residents through an enhanced Fire Master Plan, I fully intend to work with our Council and Newmarket Council to manage these significant costs in a sustainable and strategic fashion that does not adversely affect other programs and services."

The 2015 Town of Aurora Budget includes a 3.91 per cent increase to the local municipal tax levy. This amounts to an additional \$68.07 on a home with an assessed value of \$500,000. Combined with the York Region Business Plan and Budget approved in February, Aurora homeowners will see an overall increase on their property tax bill of 2.69 per cent or \$129.95 on a \$500,000 home.

The 2015 Budget involves three primary tax levy pressures:

Cost to run
Aurora today
1.82 per cent

Expanding
Fire Services
1.3 per cent

Fiscal Strategy
0.79 per cent

- Improving services and meeting growth
- Increased insurance, employee benefits and software maintenance
- Increased facility, snow removal and library services costs
- Efficient and accountable government
- Closely aligned with inflation
- First of six years of phase-in plan (Operational costs only)
- Capital expansion funded by development charges
- Infrastructure sustainability funding, closing historical underfunding gap
- Long-term plan to keep our Town in good condition and working well
- Reducing our reliance on interest earned from Hydro Sale proceeds, while protecting the purchasing power of those proceeds



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The 2015 Budget will support the following key initiatives:

- Pursuing Excellence Canada's Silver Certification, after receiving Bronze Certification in 2014
- Developing a Sports Plan and an update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Developing a Public Arts Policy
- Enhancing recreational services for youth
- Implementation of paperless billings (e-billings) for taxes and water
- Exploring IT efficiencies with Town of Newmarket
- Preparation of a new, comprehensive Zoning By-law

Highlights of the 2015 Town of Aurora Operational Budget

- Three new staff plus a redeployment of another position to better serve the growing need of our community, bringing total full-time staffing to 211
- A separate 1.3 per cent tax increase to begin a six-year phase-in of increasing costs for the expansion of emergency services for Central York Fire Services
- A tax increase of 0.79 per cent to fund sustainable infrastructure, assuring future replacement of infrastructure, as well as reduce our reliance on interest generated by the Town's Hydro Funds
- \$782,000 of new tax revenue from new construction, both residential and non-residential
- Reductions in corporate overhead costs to offset high inflation on our utilities and fuel costs

Highlights of the 2015 Town of Aurora Capital Budget

- \$13.2 million for Infrastructure Repair and Replacement, including:
 - \$2 million to reconstruct Industrial Parkway South from Wellington Street to Industry Street
 - \$2 million for Aurora Family Leisure Complex roofing
 - \$1.8 million for the reconstruction of Bluegrass Drive and Steeplechase Avenue
 - \$1.4 million to re-pave the Aurora Community Centre parking lot
 - \$720,000 for water infrastructure improvements on Child Drive
 - \$400,000 for water meter replacement
 - \$385,000 for new fleet vehicles
- \$3.9 million for Growth and New Capital projects, including:
 - \$1.2 million for the reconstruction of Vandorf Sideroad
 - \$387,000 for accessible playground at Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park
 - \$300,000 for Hartwell Way Overpass
 - \$200,000 for Community Improvement Plan
- \$830,000 for Studies and Other Capital projects, including:
 - \$100,000 for a Town-wide Erosion Master Plan
 - \$75,000 for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Review
 - \$50,000 for the Town of Aurora Strategic Plan



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The Town of Aurora is responsible for Fire and Emergency Services, Parks and Recreation, Building and Bylaw Services, Infrastructure and Environmental Services and Planning and Development.

To help residents better understand how property taxes are used, the Town introduced a [fun and innovative video to its YouTube channel](#) last year, with examples from the 2012 budget.

For more information on how property taxes fund Town programs and services, please see the attached:

- Fact Sheet #1 – Calculating your overall property tax bill
- Fact Sheet #2 – Where does your 2015 tax dollar go?

All documents relating to the 2015 Budget, including a complete list of approved capital projects, are available at www.aurora.ca/budget

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Calculating your overall Property Tax bill

Aurora, ON – Property taxes have three components: A local municipal portion (Town of Aurora) a Regional portion (York Region) and an Education portion (The Government of Ontario). The table below shows the effect of the weighted balance of the Town's 3.91 per cent increase with the Region's 2.97 per cent increase. The education portion is unchanged for 2015.

	Tax Rate Pressure	Share of Tax Bill	Weighted Tax Rate Pressure
Town of Aurora	3.91%	36%	1.41%
York Region	2.97%	43%	1.28%
Education	0.00%	21%	0.00%
Total Impact to Average Home >>			2.69%

This table outlines the local and overall tax levy impact per assessed property value. Home value assessments are determined by the [Municipal Property Assessment Corporation](#). A home valued at \$500,000 (highlighted) will see an overall tax bill increase of \$129.95.

Property Assessment Value	Town of Aurora (3.91%)	Overall (2.69%)
\$300,000	\$40.84	\$77.97
\$400,000	\$54.46	\$103.96
\$500,000	\$68.07	\$129.95
\$600,000	\$81.69	\$155.94
\$700,000	\$95.30	\$181.93

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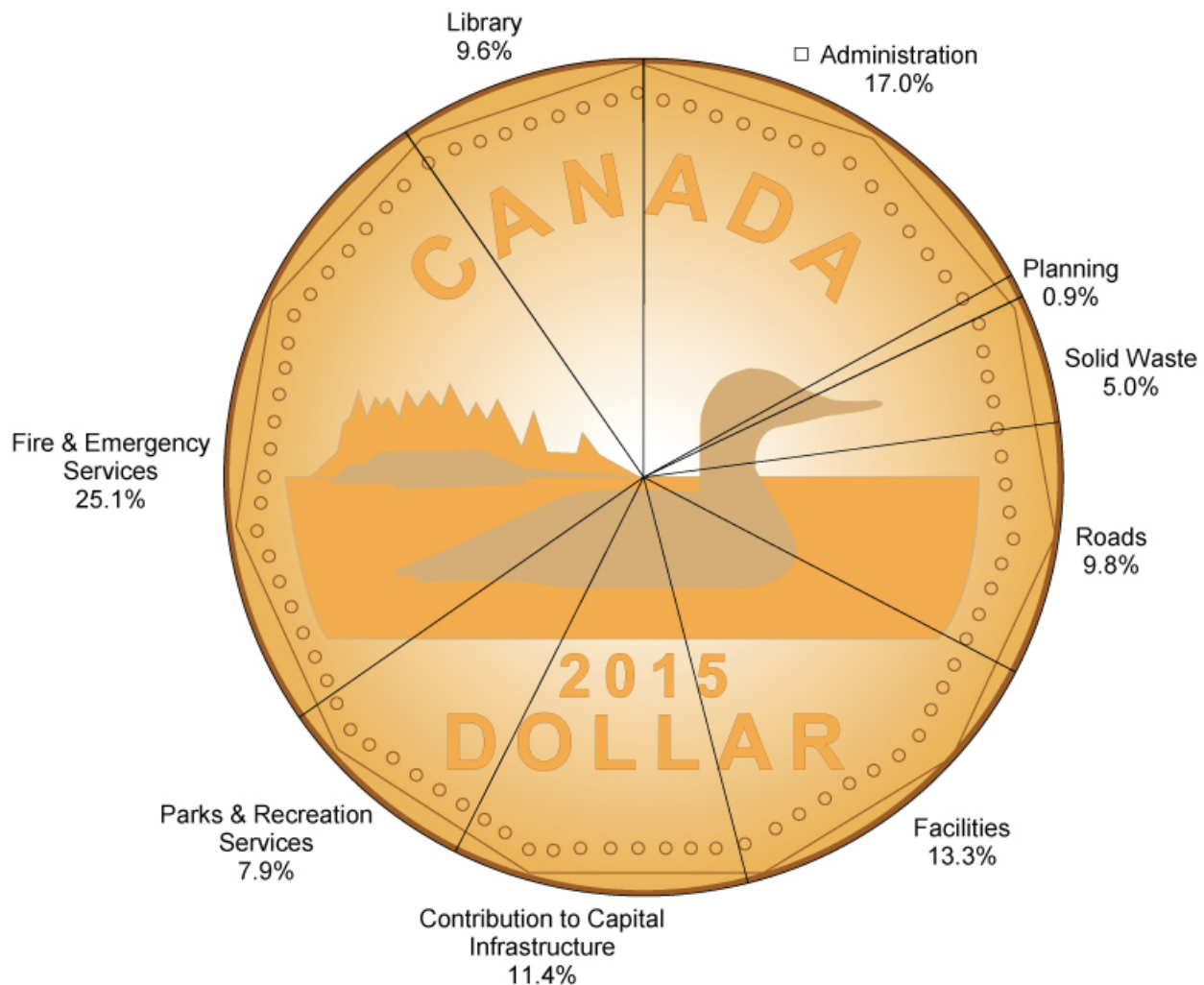




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Where does your property tax dollar go?

Aurora, ON – Property taxes fund approximately two-thirds of The Town of Aurora’s \$56 million 2015 Operating Budget. The Operating Budget consists of Administration, Fire Services, Facilities, Parks and Recreation, Roads, Contribution to Capital Infrastructure, Library Services, Solid Waste and Planning.



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