



MEDIA RELEASE

Town Council Approves the 2022 Budget

Council and Staff maintain minimal budget increase despite financial impacts from the ongoing pandemic

For Immediate Release

February 4, 2022

During a Special Council Meeting on Monday, January 31, 2022, Town Council finalized the 2022 Budget, covering a wide range of services and programs that support Town operations and maintain the high quality of life enjoyed in our community.

The budget represents a 2.99% increase on the Operating levy. This increase is below the current inflation rate of 4.4%. Those within the urban area will see an additional increase resulting from the stormwater levy.

"Recognizing the hardships experienced by many throughout the last two years, Council remains committed to getting work done while minimizing the impact to the taxpayer," stated Lord Mayor Betty Disero. "We are more focused than ever to improve our infrastructure, expand our streetscapes, and support the quality of life our residents enjoy and have come to expect. We have once again managed to maintain our services with a balanced budget. I am very proud of our team's efforts and to say that Council took a major step forward toward achieving a sustainable budget. We are on a good path."

"Town Staff, with the leadership of Audit & Finance Committee and Council, worked diligently to present a fiscally responsible budget that meets the needs of the community while navigating the challenges of economic uncertainty," stated CAO Marnie Cluckie.

"Thank you to the Town's Treasurer, Kyle Freeborn, the Finance Team, Town Staff, Council, and the Audit & Finance Committee for their commitment to our local taxpayers throughout this budget process,"

Key figures from the 2022 Niagara-on-the-Lake Budget:

- **2022 Capital Budget: \$10,297,500**
 - Supports new and improved infrastructure including watermain replacements, road resurfacing and widening, new fire apparatus, and Niagara Stone Road Regional Streetscape Enhancements (Phase 1).



- **2022 Operating Budget: \$40,158,178**
 - Covers the costs of operating and delivering Town services.
- **2022 Operating Levy: \$13,670,566**
 - Results in an approximate annual increase of \$44.00 for the average homeowner with an assessment of \$536,960. This is a 2.99% increase.
- **Stormwater Levy: \$879,443**
 - As in previous years, those within the urban area will receive an additional levy for stormwater management purposes to support investment into stormwater management, keeping the systems strong and meeting legislative requirements. This year's annual increase is:
 - Stormwater Levy: Approximately \$53.17 annual increase (\$4.43 monthly)
 - Combined increase (Operational and Stormwater Levy): Approximately \$97.17 annual increase (\$8.10 monthly) for the average homeowner with an assessment of \$536,960.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's property tax bill includes levies for the Town, Niagara Region, the Province of Ontario (for education purposes), and the Niagara Health System. Stay tuned for additional budget communication tools, which will be available in the coming weeks.

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