



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 10, 2010

The Town of Wasaga Beach's 2010 budget was passed at the March 9, 2010 Council meeting. In preparing the budget, senior staff and Council have taken into consideration the current economic climate and limitations affecting the taxpayers of Wasaga Beach.

The total proposed budget is \$48.2 million - \$27.9 million in operating expenses and \$20.3 million in capital expenses. This compares to an overall budget of \$43.9 million in 2009.

For 2010 the average assessed value of a residential home in Wasaga Beach is \$223,500.00. A residential property with this value will see an increase in the municipal portion of their taxes of \$15.64 with an approximate increase of \$100.00 when the taxes from county, education and waste management levies are included.

Council is of the view that a 2.0% increase for residential properties is a reasonable increase given the inflation pressures the Town is facing in providing services such as policing. Due to the troubled economy, the Town has also experienced a decline in certain revenue areas such as bank interest, building permits, planning application fees and provincial offences act fines.

Taking these factors into consideration, Council implemented a hiring freeze on full-time staff, minimized wage increases for non-union staff, deleted a dedicated contribution to reserves, postponed certain capital projects to future years and froze non-strategic services at 2009 financial levels. These measures assisted with delivering an overall budget with a 2% tax levy increase.

The 2010 capital program continues Council's goal of upgrading the Town's infrastructure. The \$20.26 million dollar budget has 66 projects including \$2.7 million for the Robinson Road storm sewer and stormwater management pond and \$2.62 million for a new Fire Hall.

Other highlights include \$245,000.00 for trails, \$200,000.00 for lighting at the Sports Park, \$100,000.00 for a new transit bus, \$65,000.00 for a new playground at the arena, and \$50,000.00 for town beautification.

Mayor Patterson expressed that "the capital program is an ambitious one, however the Chief Administration Officer and Department Heads are excited to see projects implemented and are committed to work with Council over the coming year to ensure each project is completed within budget and on time."

Mayor Cal Patterson commented that "we are also focusing on the other aspects of what makes up a community through funding an additional playground structure, funding for trails, funding for a second bus, funding for a youth centre and funding for a new Fire Hall. In total, the 2010 budget represents \$419,050.00 for new services including \$215,000.00 for the second transit bus and \$41,000.00 for the youth centre. I am personally excited to see these projects through to completion. The 2010 budget is a responsible budget that is reflective of Council's priorities and sensitive to the times we live in. It is not extravagant, yet it continues to move the Town forward achieving the vision of a balanced full service community. "

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For media requiring additional information, please contact:

Lynn Morton
Treasurer
Town of Wasaga Beach
(705) 429-3844 ext. 2244
treasurer@wasagabeach.com

OR

Mayor Cal Patterson
Town of Wasaga Beach
(705) 429-3844, ext. 2225
mayor@wasagabeach.com

OR

Jenny Legget
Economic Development and
Communications Officer
Town of Wasaga Beach
(705) 429-3844 ext. 2285
jlegget@wasagabeach.com
www.wasagabeach.com