



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 17, 2019**

# **Town council approves 2020 budget**

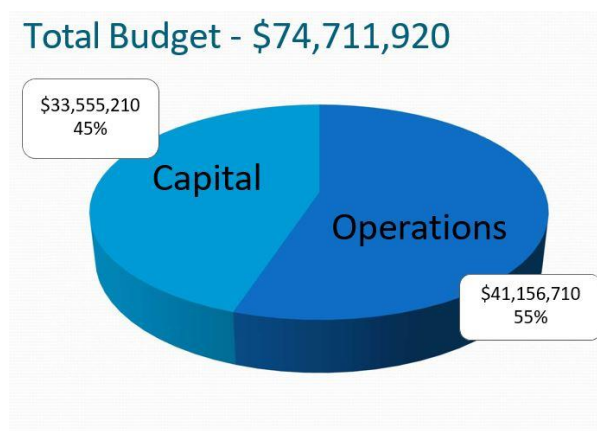
## **Enhanced service delivery and infrastructure investments the focus for year ahead**

**Wasaga Beach** – Tonight, members of Wasaga Beach Town Council approved the municipality’s 2020 budget.

“I am extremely proud of council and our staff for all of the hard work that has gone into creating this budget,” Mayor Nina Bifulchi said. “The result is a responsible financial plan for the year ahead and beyond. We are making significant investment in all service delivery areas, positioning us to better meet the needs of our growing community.”

The increase to the municipal portion of the tax rate is 3.79 percent. But when the prior year county and school board tax rates are factored in the total tax rate increase is approximately 2.09 percent.

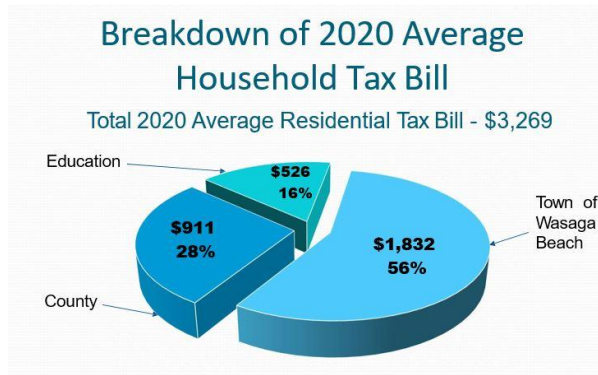
The town’s total budget for 2020 is \$74-million. Of that amount, \$41-million is for the operating budget and \$33-million is for the capital budget, funds that support a variety of infrastructure initiatives.



Key factors affecting the 2020 budget include: a reduction in the Ontario Municipal Partnership Grant of \$318,763 (equivalent to a 1.29 percent increase in taxes), payroll and cost of living adjustments, accounting for \$532,000, as well as investments in new staffing positions in IT, engineering, library services, and parks, at a cost of \$198,000, in order to meet municipal service level requirements.

Additional factors include a \$122,000 increase to the OPP policing budget, and an additional \$91,000 in transit operating costs.

The total average 2020 household tax bill is \$3,269 for a home assessed at \$326,517. Of this amount, the town receives \$1,832. Based on the balance, \$526 is for the school board and \$911 for the County of Simcoe.



Using the average household assessed value, the municipal portion of the tax bill increases by \$105.19 when compared to 2019. The portion related to the change in household assessment value is \$38.29, leaving the remaining amount of \$66.90 representing the increase in the taxation levy.

## Average Household Impact

Description	2019 \$	2020 \$	\$ Change	% Change	\$ Change (Assessed)	\$ Change (Tax Rate)	Total Change
Assessment	\$319,436	\$326,517	\$7,081	2.22%	\$7,081		\$7,081
Municipal Tax	1,727.14	1,832.33	105.19	6.09%	38.29	66.90	105.19
County Tax **	891.22	910.98	19.76	2.22%	19.76	0.00	19.76
Education Tax **	514.29	525.69	11.40	2.22%	11.40	0.00	11.40
<b>Total Taxes</b>	<b>3,132.66</b>	<b>3,269.00</b>	<b>136.34</b>	<b>4.35%</b>	<b>69.44</b>	<b>66.90</b>	<b>136.34</b>

Description	2019 Tax Rate	2020 Tax Rate	% Change
Municipal Tax	0.54069%	0.56117%	3.79%
County Tax **	0.27900%	0.27900%	0.00%
Education Tax **	0.16100%	0.16100%	0.00%
<b>Total Tax Rate</b>	<b>0.98068%</b>	<b>1.00117%</b>	<b>2.09%</b>

Estimating the county and education rate adjustments, we anticipate that the overall increase for the average home will be approximately \$136.34. We will not know this for sure until April when the county and school board finalize their rates.

# Tax Dollars at Work

	Per \$100
Policing (OPP)	19.07
Public Works (including Equipment)	17.26
Fire / Health & Safety	16.31
Administration / Council / Treasury / IT / Clerk	7.55
Recreation & Facilities	6.04
Parks	5.33
Debentures	5.11
Library	3.92
Planning	3.82
Winter Maintenance	3.22
Beachfront Management	2.84
Transit	2.45
Road Projects	1.86
Economic Initiatives	1.82
Community Events	1.48
Municipal Law Enforcement & Animal Control	1.03
Vehicle Maintenance (Fleet)	0.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

When comparing Wasaga Beach's tax rate to that of comparable urbanized municipalities in Simcoe County, the town is near the bottom of the list. The town continues to maintain a low tax rate relative to other similar nearby municipalities.

## Municipal Comparators

Municipality	Residential	County 2019	Education 2019	Total	Tax \$\$ based on	Tax \$\$ based on	Tax \$\$ based on
					\$300K Assessment	\$350K Assessment	\$450K Assessment
City of Orillia	1.2240%		0.1610%	1.3850%	\$ 4,155.12	\$ 4,847.64	\$ 6,232.68
City of Barrie	1.0715%		0.1610%	1.2325%	\$ 3,697.40	\$ 4,313.63	\$ 5,546.10
Penetanguishene	0.9993%	0.2790%	0.1610%	1.4393%	\$ 4,317.92	\$ 5,037.58	\$ 6,476.89
Midland	0.9805%	0.2790%	0.1610%	1.4205%	\$ 4,261.63	\$ 4,971.90	\$ 6,392.44
Collingwood	0.7249%	0.2790%	0.1610%	1.1649%	\$ 3,494.84	\$ 4,077.31	\$ 5,242.26
Innisfil	0.5847%	0.2790%	0.1610%	1.0247%	\$ 3,074.10	\$ 3,586.45	\$ 4,611.15
<b>Wasaga Beach</b>	<b>0.5612%</b>	<b>0.2790%</b>	<b>0.1610%</b>	<b>1.0012%</b>	<b>\$ 3,003.52</b>	<b>\$ 3,504.11</b>	<b>\$ 4,505.28</b>
New Tecumseth	0.5136%	0.2790%	0.1610%	0.9536%	\$ 2,860.70	\$ 3,337.48	\$ 4,291.05
Bradford West Gwillimbury	0.5098%	0.2790%	0.1610%	0.9498%	\$ 2,849.37	\$ 3,324.26	\$ 4,274.05
<b>Municipal Only - Annual</b>					<b>\$ 1,683.52</b>	<b>\$ 1,964.11</b>	<b>\$ 2,525.29</b>
<b>Municipal Only - Monthly</b>					<b>\$ 140.29</b>	<b>\$ 163.68</b>	<b>\$ 210.44</b>
<b>Municipal Only - Monthly Increase over 2019</b>					<b>\$ 5.12</b>	<b>\$ 5.98</b>	<b>\$ 7.68</b>

Note: All other Town Tax Rates listed at 2019 amounts; Wasaga Beach at Draft #4 2020 Rates based on a 3.79% rate increase over 2019

## Capital budget investments

The town's capital budget is \$33-million and this represents a \$9.7-million increase over 2019. Driving the increase is \$5-million for water and wastewater projects, as well as a number of other investments, including funds for the new library and arena.

### Capital investments for 2020 include:

- \$7.6-million for water and wastewater projects;

- \$3.9-million for the Veterans Way servicing and road realignment;
- \$3.7-million for the Main Street Bridge rehabilitation project, which started in the fall of 2019 and will conclude in 2021;
- \$3.7-million for storm drainage projects;
- \$107,000 for building repairs and maintenance at the beachfront rental properties the town owns;
- \$215,000 for renovations to the second floor at town hall and to the classroom space, resulting in better customer service and needed working space for staff;
- \$107,560 for renovations to fire hall Station 2 on Mosley Street;
- \$40,000 for new auto extrication tools for the fire department;
- \$728,000 for new heavy duty vehicles that will support departments;
- \$560,000 for light duty vehicles, including two for the fire department. These would be used when a pumper truck is not needed. The aim is to reduce the wear on the department's pumper trucks.
- \$1.4-million for the Ramblewood Drive urbanization project;
- \$473,200 for various road and bridge projects;
- \$90,000 for new playground equipment;
- \$4.1-million for the new arena;
- \$1.4-million for the new library;
- And nearly \$2-million for several small scale projects.

Town general reserves and reserve funds are used to fund a portion of the 2020 budget. This practice is normal to help stabilize tax rate impacts for large projects, which often are one-time capital expenditures. General reserves are also used within the asset management replacement strategy, where fleet replacements under \$100,000 are funded with 50 percent through reserves and 50 percent through taxation.

The reserve funds are drawn upon in each year's budget as new projects start. New grant amounts, revenues from fees, and development charges rebuild the reserve funds.

For 2020, \$23.4-million worth of major items are funded through reserves. This is offset by contributions to reserves of \$10.4-million. This means the net impact to reserves, based on the 2020 budget, is a decrease of roughly \$12.9-million.

The town's total reserves (general and reserve funds) are estimated to be at approximately \$51.8-million at the end of 2020.

Council also received the Four-Year Operating Forecast and the 10-Year Capital Forecast. You can review those forecasts here: <http://bit.ly/2rxKzH0>.

## You can watch

On Tuesday, Dec. 10, we hosted a public meeting on the budget. You can watch a presentation on the budget here: <http://bit.ly/2LSdrkp>.

## Resources

Looking for more information on the budget?

Check out our budget updates from earlier in the year here: <http://bit.ly/2rhjCXY>.

Find the 2020 budget and supporting documents here: <http://bit.ly/2rxKzH0>.

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### **For media requiring additional information, please contact:**

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