



FEBRUARY 2020 your update on what's happening in Wasaga Beach

beachPAGES

Town of Wasaga Beach | 30 Lewis Street, Wasaga Beach, ON | (P) 705-429-3844 | (F) 705-429-6732

www.wasagabeach.com

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter

Join our mailing list to receive our monthly e-newsletter. The Monthly Report will be sent directly to your e-mail inbox.

Visit www.wasagabeach.com and click on the "Subscribe to Newsletter" link in the upper right corner of our webpage. Follow the instructions and you will receive The Monthly Report approximately every 30 days.

The report contains information about council decisions, town programs, activities, a message from the mayor, links to staff reports, contact information for council members, and much more.

Tax bill

Enclosed with this newsletter is your tax bill. If your bill indicates a balance forward, it's important to note that interest has been calculated to the current billing date. Interest will be applied at 1.25% on the first day of each month thereafter.

E-Billing

To sign up for e-billing for tax and water bills, please e-mail: e-billing@wasagabeach.com.

Please include the following information:

- 1) Your municipal address;
- 2) Your name and telephone number;
- 3) Your e-mail must come from the e-mail address that you would like the bill sent to.

Paying your bill

Payments can be made the following ways:

- 1) In person at town hall, 30 Lewis St., Monday to Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- 2) Use our drop box beside the front door (cheques only).
- 3) Payments can be mailed to the address indicated on your bill.
- 4) At most financial institutions.
- 5) Through online banking.
- 6) Pre-authorized payment plan.

Charges

Tax records, reprints of tax or water bill:

\$10 plus HST.

Payment Transfer fee: \$5 plus HST.

Mayor's Message

Let me start by saying thank you to everyone who attended the New Year's Levee at the RecPlex in January.

It was fantastic to visit with residents who came out. I want to commend our staff for all of their work organizing the afternoon.

As I stated in another message to our community a few weeks ago, this is going to be a remarkable year for our town and a spectacular decade as Wasaga Beach continues moving forward.

It is my belief that by the end of this decade, our town will be home to significant new commercial development, as well as residential growth. In fact, I expect a greater choice in housing will be one of the biggest accomplishments we will see in this decade. By that, I mean more semis, townhomes, condominiums, apartments, and potentially innovative new forms of housing stock.

And I believe we will see new schools, enhanced public transit, greater medical choices, new dining and entertainment options, plus much more.

It is an exciting time to be a part of our community. Wasaga Beach has undergone significant transformation in the last 25 to 30 years and that trend will continue as we move through the 2020s.

One significant step we are taking this year will happen in the spring when we issue the Request for Proposals (RFP) for town-owned land at the beachfront. Last year, we went through a Request for Expressions of Interest exercise and identified six firms for the RFP phase. Through the RFP, council is interested in learning what these firms have in mind for development.

Work will also continue this year on our new twinpad arena and library at 544 River Rd. W. Council approved the site in 2019. This year the work will focus on design and preparation for the construction phase. We do not know a specific opening date yet, but



we are aiming for 2022.

As you will read in this edition of Beach Pages, council approved the 2020 budget in December. Through the budget, we are making significant investment in all service delivery areas. This allows us to meet the needs of our growing community.

I am extremely proud of council and our staff for all of the hard work that has gone into creating the budget. The result is a responsible financial plan for the year ahead and beyond.

In other news, I want to mention we have several Special Events activities planned for 2020. I encourage you to visit the Special Events section of our website at www.wasagabeach.com to learn about all that we have in store.

As always, it is my pleasure to update you and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,
Nina Bifolchi,
Mayor.

Parking passes now available

Get your parking pass today by visiting town hall at 30 Lewis St., Monday to Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The cost for the pass is \$25 plus HST.

Residential passes are valid seven days a week in available municipal parking lot spaces.

For more information, call 705-429-3844.

Meeting agendas

Visit our website at www.wasagabeach.com to learn about upcoming meetings of council and committees. You can even subscribe to receive notifications of new agendas ready for viewing.

Our website includes minutes of past meetings. Questions about a meeting? Call our Clerk's Department at 705-429-3844, ext. 2224.

Senior of the Year nominations now open

Nominations are now open for our Senior of the Year Award.

Nominees must be at least 65 years of age and have contributed to the Wasaga Beach community or in a location beneficial to Wasaga Beach residents.

For full details on eligibility and the nomination process visit our website at www.wasagabeach.com.

Nominations will be accepted until 2 p.m. on Feb. 28, 2020. Completed nomination forms can be returned to the Wasaga Beach Public Library, 120 Glenwood Dr.

Our 2019 Year in Review publication is now available



Have you read our 2019 Year in Review publication?

It was published in The Sun newspaper in December.

You can also access a PDF version on our website at www.wasagabeach.com.

Hard copies are available at town

hall, Public Works, the library, and the RecPlex.

The publication provides an overview of everything our town departments worked on during 2019 to move Wasaga Beach forward.

As you will read, it was a busy year

Wasaga Beach Events calendar

Easter Eggstravaganza April 11

Wasaga's Finest Citizen Awards May 9

For full details on these events and activities taking place later in the year see the Special Events section of www.wasagabeach.com.

Town council approves 2020 budget

Members of Wasaga Beach Town Council approved the municipality's 2020 budget in December.

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 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.

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.

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.

The town's capital budget of \$33-million 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.

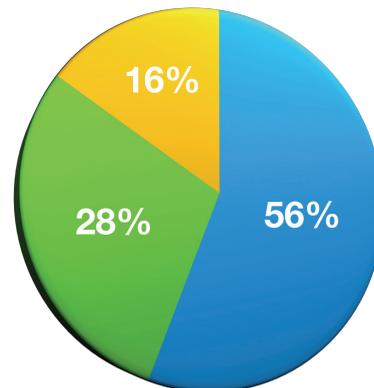
For 2020, \$23.4-million worth of major items are funded through reserves. This is offset by contributions to reserves of \$10.4-million. This means the net impact to reserves, based on the 2020 budget, is a decrease of roughly \$12.9-million.

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

For full details, see the Budget section of www.wasagabeach.com.

Breakdown of 2020 Average Household Tax Bill

Total 2020 Average Residential Tax Bill – \$3,269



● **Town of Wasaga Beach** \$1,832 ● **County** \$911 ● **Education** \$526