

Municipal News & Announcements



A Message from the Mayor

This is a new communications opportunity and at the end of each month I, along with the Chief Administrative Officer Brent Marshall, will be providing information on current issues. As it is early in the year, I thought it appropriate to talk about the budget that was just passed. Given that it is tax bill time, I'm sure it is not news that

Town Council approved the budget at a 3.9% increase - a 2.4% increase when blended with Halton Region and the school board. This translates to \$20 on every \$100,000 of residential assessment, with \$14 going towards Town services and \$6 towards the Region including the HRRS.

I know that some residents would like to have seen a lower increase. Council's direction to staff was to deliver a package that maintained current service levels while ensuring we invested for the future. The increase has been the same for four years and this has been the Town's strategy – continued investment to provide predictability and stability. By keeping a tax rate that is realistic and stable, we avoid years of catch up with high tax increases when we need to replace aging infrastructure.

The roads we drive, the parks we visit and the sidewalks we travel all come at a cost. Similarly, is ensuring the community's safety and well-being through the provision of fire services, libraries and recreational facilities. You can read more about the budget and the business plans at haltonhills.ca/financials. Keeping it real!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Bonnette".

Rick Bonnette,
Mayor



A Message from the CAO

In accordance to Council's direction, the budget is built firstly, on maintaining current service levels. This includes maintaining our expanse of 447 kms of roads, 75 bridges and 238 km of sidewalks. Add to this, responsibilities for 7 recreational facilities, administrative buildings, 63 parks, 25 km of trails and over 5,000 catch

basins and you get a sense of some of the infrastructure the Town must manage. This year's road construction projects include phase two of Armstrong Avenue and the extension of Halton Hills Drive. Work will also continue on a number of planning studies including the Premier Gateway Phase 1B Secondary Plan, Employment Land Needs Study & the Intensification Opportunities Study.

The 2019 budget also allows us to continue supporting our community's young people by allocating dollars to the youth centres, continue operating the ActiVan service and invest in our reserves per the 10-year Long Range Plan.

A notable budget inclusion is the advancement of the Fire Department's Master Plan which will see the hiring of 5 new firefighters to allow for round-the-clock emergency response by full-time staff. While previously this service was reliant on part-time staff, the move to hire full-time employees ensures the Town is better prepared to respond to emergencies and keep the community safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Marshall".

Brent Marshall,
Chief Administration Officer