



Media Advisory

Skateboard parks, flowers, and taxes – oh my.

Newmarket, ON, January 31, 2017 – Yesterday the Town of Newmarket Council approved the proposed 2017 budget, which will increase the Town portion of property taxes 2.99%. This increase, coupled with water and sewer rate increases, with the new provincial carbon tax, is significant to property owners, particularly with a cost of living increase of only 1.5% [<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/cpis01a-eng.htm>] and inflation increasing 2.0% in Ontario [<http://inflationcalculator.ca/ontario/>].

Councillor Christina Bisanz asked the question the Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc. (NTAG) has asked during several budgets: why does the Town have a predetermined, specific tax increase? NTAG questions why the municipality could not work towards a zero increase in property taxes, and maintain services, as other municipalities have successfully done.

“The Town budget has proposed reducing potted flowers on boulevards and community entrances. The construction of an outdoor skateboard park may be delayed by two years or more. While there has been an attempt to wrestle with costs, Council lacks a significant road map to seriously decrease spending and increase internal efficiencies and cost savings”, states Teena Bogner, President of NTAG.

“However, NTAG commends the Town of Newmarket finance department for implementing new budget policies to ensure that revenue from growth pays for services for growth; that upcoming years are not burdened with deferrals from previous years; and to separate rate-supported expenses from the operating budget. Clearly our Council needed these policies to ensure the financial sustainability of our municipality’, Bogner continued.

The Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc. (NTAG) is a provincially incorporated non-for-profit ratepayers group in Newmarket, ON. NTAG is a non-political, non-partisan, advocacy organization dedicated to fair taxes, less waste, and transparent and accountable government in all levels of government (town, region, and school boards) in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada.

For information on Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc.:

Teena Bogner
President
president@ntag.ca
www.ntag.ca