



## **Media Advisory**

### **Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc.**

#### **Town of Newmarket ignores concerns with excessive, unnecessary spending**

**Newmarket, ON, June 15, 2015** – The Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc. (NTAG) delivered a deputation to Town of Newmarket Council on March 30, 2015, lamenting the use of the Town’s miscellaneous accounts to fund employee meals and parties, flowers, cakes, and gifts with taxpayers money. Examples of unwarranted spending include:

1. \$640.12 spent by the Town of Newmarket at Cardinal Golf Club.
2. \$719.67 spent by the Town of Newmarket for a departmental Mexican Fiesta party.
3. \$719.95 spent by the York Central Fire Services at Mr. Sub restaurant for a staff luncheon.
4. \$896.72 spent by the Newmarket Library at Spero restaurant for a staff luncheon.
5. \$1,907.44 spent by the Town of Newmarket for Town branded toques.
6. \$2,126.64 spent by the Town of Newmarket for Chinese food for a staff luncheon.
7. \$2,699.77 (+ tax) spent by for Town branded sweaters and jackets for each member of Council.
8. \$4,209.58 spent by the Town of Newmarket for a staff BBQ.
9. \$4,611.00 spent by the Town of Newmarket on rubber “Recreation Playbook” bracelets.
10. \$10,844.03 spent by the Town of Newmarket providing staff with Town of Newmarket branded trunk organizers and car blankets.\*

\* A copy of all FOI documents can be found on our website.

This month NTAG received the Operating and Capital Budget book from the Town of Newmarket, which includes what was actually spent in each account for 2014. [It should be noted that the 2015 budget was passed this March, without reviewing what had actually been spent in 2014.] From this new data, NTAG has learned:

1. There is no formal policy at the Town of Newmarket relating to entertainment spending with employees;
2. The miscellaneous budget was \$90,000 over budget in 2014;
3. An additional \$10,000 has been budgeted for the 2015 miscellaneous fund, despite our request that spending in this area decrease by 50%.



“Many taxpayers are struggling financially, and have made significant changes to their spending habits in this current economic climate,” states Teena Bogner, President of NTAG. “This failure to control unnecessary spending is insulting to the very taxpayers that fund these meals, gifts and incentives.” Bogner further noted that the Mayor and all Councillors received a letter from NTAG outlining concerns with spending. To date NTAG has not received a reply.

NTAG demands that duly elected officials at the Town of Newmarket mandate a decrease in miscellaneous spending in 2015, and create and implement a proper entertainment policy for all staff immediately.

A copy of the Freedom of Information request that provided this information can be found at [www.ntag.ca](http://www.ntag.ca).

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.:**

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