

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WHITBY

In the Regional Municipality of Durham

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2009 Budget Speech Councillor Sue Pitchforth

Madame Mayor, Members of Council, Town of Whitby staff, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good evening and thank you for attending this evening's meeting to discuss, deliberate and confirm the 2009 Operating and Capital Budgets.

Before you is the 2009 draft operating budget, the 2009 draft capital budget and the nine year forecast.

The current economic conditions facing taxpayers in the Town of Whitby, Durham Region, as well as the rest of the world have affected the approach to this budget.

As such, staff prepared a base budget that essentially reflects the resources available last year and the services provided last year. We have all heard over the last few weeks, either via email, letter or in person at our Public Education Session from our residents, who have so eloquently shared their desire that we make sure "that every budget item is looked at" to ensure we bring forward the lowest possible tax rate that does not impact the Town negatively. Many of them mentioned that we only look at our "needs" and not our "wants" during this challenging economic time.

The budget reflects a 2.9% tax increase or a \$35 increase on the Town's portion of the residential tax bill.

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Taking all levels of government into account, the total budgetary increase would be 1.87% on the residential tax in Whitby if the proposed budget is accepted by Council.

The budgetary increase for the Town of Whitby reflects the impacts of operating this municipality and are primarily driven by inflationary increases experienced by Whitby and other municipalities.

The capital program is changed this year to reflect the focus on taking care of our existing infrastructure. New funding opportunities became available in 2009 that allowed the Town to address the capital program with no new additional tax impact for 2009.

As I go through the budget tonight, we will go through each department page by page at which point the Council may ask questions of the departments. We have provided a list of the order and the pages we will review for your convenience.

As we move through the budget, we will be addressing the operating and capital budgets for a department prior to moving on to the next department.

If any Councillor wishes to make a change to a department's budget, I ask that this request be brought forward during the discussion of the individual department's budget at which point a straw vote will be taken.

If the majority of Council agrees with an individual item, it will be included on a list of additions and deletions considered at the end of the Budget Committee session prior to moving into Council.

With that, I wish you well in dealing with this year's budget and would ask our CAO Bob Petrie to make a few comments.