



# Township of Wainfleet

*"Wainfleet - find your country side!"*

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – April 10, 2019

### Wainfleet Council Approves 2019 Budget

**Wainfleet, ON** – For every \$100,000 of property assessment, Wainfleet residents will be paying about \$65 more in taxes this year for Township purposes.

Faced with \$281,220 of debt from previous capital expenditures and an additional \$106,594 contribution towards the Township's aging capital infrastructure, Wainfleet's new Council took what is expected to be the first of several important steps to lay a strong foundation for the Township's finances in the years to come by approving a total budget levy increase of \$599,872 to the local portion of the tax bill for 2019.

"Our road network and buildings have needed attention for many years, and in some cases, decades," said Operations Manager Richard Nan. "Our focus on infrastructure has progressed from basic maintenance into issues of public safety."

Wainfleet Mayor Kevin Gibson, who campaigned on transparency, spoke about the fiscal realities facing the Township at a March 25<sup>th</sup> public meeting on the 2019 budget. Tax levy increases, made in this budget year and in succeeding years, will be needed to invest in aging infrastructure, support the Township's volunteer Fire Department and maintain the levels of service that residents expect. At that meeting, Mayor Gibson said that over \$500,000 in new tax dollars would need to be collected to help the Township turn the corner and position itself to be viable and sustainable going forward. These costs will amount to "a modest increase of less than \$1 per household per day."

"Since the 1990s, many municipal councils have been responsive to public pressure to keep taxes low," said Wainfleet Treasurer Adam Cross. "The unfortunate result is that often taxes were kept artificially low, even below the level of inflation. This was often accomplished by deferring infrastructure costs and using reserves to offset those costs."

