



*Hazel McCallion, C.M., LL.D.*

# Mayor's Update



*To Residents – Spring 2012*

## 2012 City Budget

As a two tier municipality, your property taxes are shared between the City of Mississauga and the Region of Peel. In fact, just 30 cents of every dollar you pay on your tax bill goes to the City. Forty-six cents goes to the Region of Peel and 24 cents goes to the Province for education.

In total, you will see a 2.8 per cent increase on the residential property tax bill in 2012. To put this in dollars, this equals:

- \$114.45 of additional property taxes on an average home assessed at \$451,000, or
- for every \$100,000 of assessed value on your home, your taxes have increased \$25.38

Forty-two per cent of City revenues come from other sources such as development revenues, transit fares and recreation and parks fees. We have received some funding from other levels of government such as the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, but they are only one-time funding opportunities. Although the costs of providing the municipal services you rely on everyday is rising, outside of the property taxes and user fees we have limited funding options. Municipalities, like Mississauga, need sustainable, long-term funding to be able to manage the aging infrastructure and services of a growing city.

Inside this update you will learn more about where your tax dollars go, the infrastructure challenges facing our City as well as some of the exciting opportunities and advancements being made in the areas of transit.

Mississauga has built a reputation as an outstanding city where people choose to be. Students, older adults, entrepreneurs, employees, new immigrants and families all choose Mississauga because we have, among other things, the richness of our diverse communities, quality municipal programs and services, great transportation access and our wonderful waterfront.

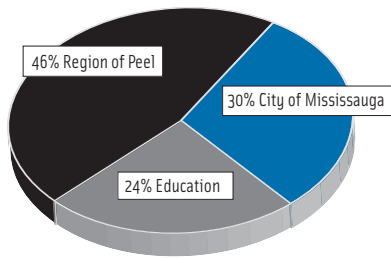
The process of building a great city is never finished and this year we continue to explore exciting opportunities in the areas of public transit and cycling, energy conservation and affordable housing. In 2012, we will also open the *Garry W. Morden Centre Dedicated to Fire and Life Safety*. We will celebrate culture with the launch of *Mississauga Culture on the Map*, an interactive website that highlights our arts and culture businesses, festivals and events, heritage properties and local artists. At the same time, we will continue to manage the day-to-day responsibilities of running a city – attracting business to provide jobs

and stimulate our economy and keeping your roads, parks and playgrounds clean and safe.

Our City has a solid foundation of business planning that ensures our resources are allocated carefully. We know our residents value the services we provide. Many are essential services, like snow clearing and fire and emergency services, that cannot be compromised, even in the face of economic challenges. This year, Council and staff worked hard to strike a budget that maintains our services at their current levels with no significant cuts, meets our growing infrastructure needs, and includes some modest new initiatives in areas of strategic priorities. Council and staff are careful stewards of your tax dollar and we remain committed to providing good value for our taxpayers.

Hazel McCallion, C.M., LL.D.  
Mayor

## Residential Tax Bill Breakdown\*



\* Based on 2012 tax rate

### Good Value for Money

Mississauga residents receive access to numerous valuable programs and services every day for their tax dollars.

- Maintenance and snow clearing of 5,209 km of roads
- 6,700 acres of parks
- Programs at 12 community centres, 25 ice rinks and 18 pools
- 91 transit routes – 1.26 million hours of service
- A collection of 1.4 million pieces at 18 libraries
- Equipment at 255 playgrounds
- Access to 24/7 fire and emergency services
- Power to 49,234 street lights and 511 traffic lights
- 261 km of trails to explore

To put this in perspective, the list below shows what an average resident pays for other household expenses compared to the City property tax.

### Amount Paid Annually

2012 City Property Taxes on a home assessed at \$451,000	\$1,285
Employment Insurance	\$795
House Insurance	\$825-\$930
Electricity for average house	\$867
Average Basic Cable/Internet	\$1,000
Natural Gas for average house	\$1,094
Gas for an average auto driver	\$2,200
Canada Pension Plan	\$2,300
Taxes paid on car worth \$20,000	\$2,600

## Impact on your 2012 Tax Bill

Your 2012 residential tax bill consists of three separate components – the City's portion, the Region of Peel portion and the education component. The City Budget increased by 7.2 per cent, the Region's Budget increased by 1.5 per cent and there was no change in the education portion. If you compare your 2011 tax bill to your 2012 tax bill you will see that **your total residential tax bill has increased overall by 2.8 percent, excluding any changes resulting from market value reassessment of your property.** Of this 2.8 per cent, 1 per cent is for maintaining infrastructure and 1.8 per cent is to cover Regional and City service cost increases.

### City of Mississauga 30% of Property Tax Bill

Fire and Emergency Services • Libraries • Transit • Parks Maintenance • Recreation Facilities and Programs • Provincial Offences Court • Culture • Local & Arterial Roads • Bridges & Watercourse • Storm Sewers • Winter Maintenance • Municipal Planning & Zoning • Building Controls & Inspections • Tax Collection

### Region of Peel 46% of Property Tax Bill

Police • Public Health Services • Water and Sanitary Sewer\* • Social Services & Welfare • Children's Aid • Long Term Care • Waste Collection & Disposal • Regional Roads & Planning • Social Housing • Emergency & Ambulance • Trans Help

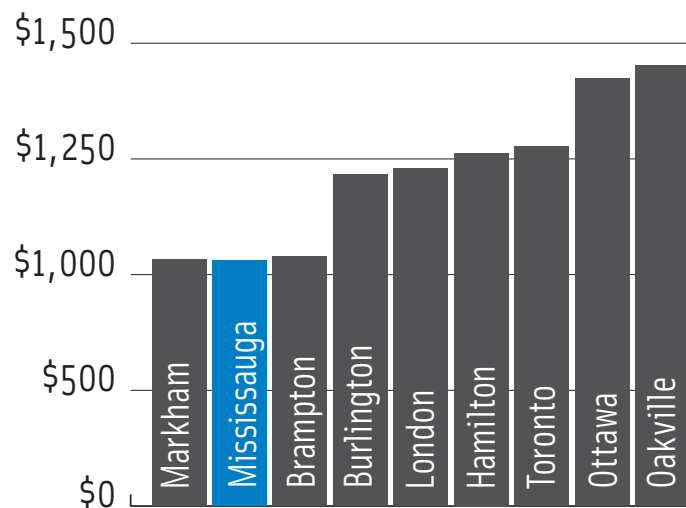
### Province of Ontario 24% of Property Tax Bill

Education

\* Paid through user fees

## Comparing Property Taxes in the GTA

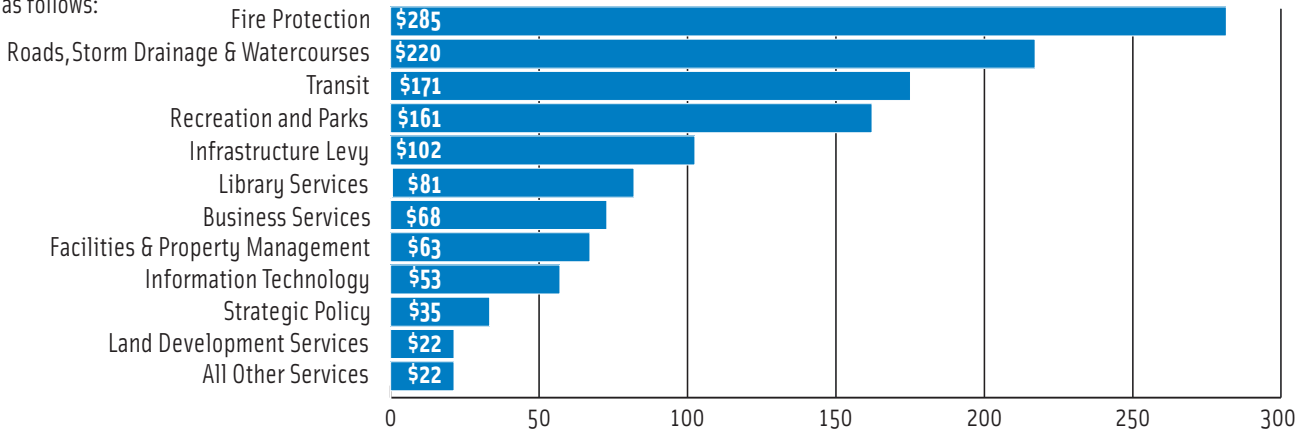
On average across the GTA, Mississauga residents pay less per person in total property tax.



Total Tax Levy per Capita (\*2011)

# Where Your 2012 City Tax Dollars Go

An average home in Mississauga assessed at a value of \$451,000 pays approximately \$1,285 in property taxes to the City distributed as follows:



\* Numbers are rounded to the closest dollar

## Infrastructure Update

The City's infrastructure including roads, bridges, culverts, sidewalks, streetlights and traffic lights, community centres, libraries, pools, arenas, fire stations, parks, playground equipment, buses, bus shelters and vehicles has a replacement value today of \$6.7 billion. This infrastructure is generally in good condition but it is aging and its condition is deteriorating.

Including the tax increase levied for infrastructure in 2012, the City will raise \$27.6 million through property taxes for infrastructure renewal, well below the estimated \$100.3 million in annual

depreciation or wear and tear on these assets. There are only a few options available to address the growing funding shortfall and meet the maintenance costs of today and the future. These include increasing property taxes to fund the infrastructure gap (through an annual infrastructure levy), reducing the standard of maintenance on roads and buildings and deferring new initiatives. Debt financing will also be utilized where appropriate to fund this shortfall. At the same time, Council continues to seek long-term sustainable funding support from senior levels of government.

For the first time, the City will be taking on debt to fund some of these infrastructure costs. This year, \$21 million will be used to finance the retrofitting of streetlights with more energy efficient LED lights and to repair some bridges. The street lighting program alone will result in long-term savings based on reduced electricity and maintenance costs, with full payback expected in six years.

The City has been planning for this reality for some time and has developed a long-term financial plan that will ensure assets are properly maintained and debt is managed responsibly.

## 2012 Budget Highlights

The 2012 City Budget includes a gross operating budget of \$599.8 million to maintain existing services and service levels and a gross capital budget of \$155.6 million to address capital construction and rehabilitation. No services have been cut and the following service improvements are provided for in the budget:

### Transit

- 20,000 additional service hours
- Purchase of 15 buses for Bus Rapid Transit \$5 million

### Roads, Storm Drainage & Watercourses

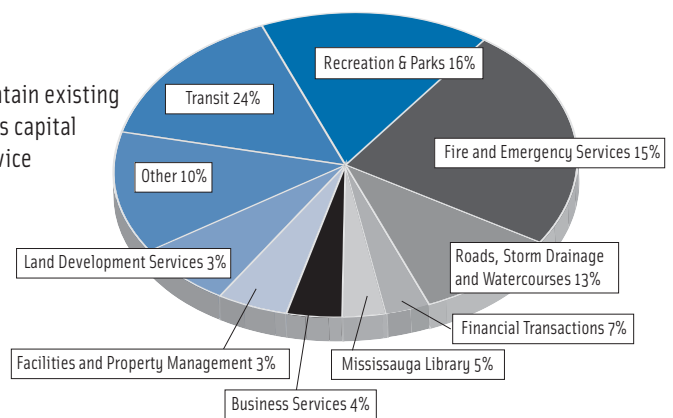
- LED Streetlighting Retrofit Project Phase 1, \$18 million, with a payback period of six years in reduced electricity and maintenance costs

### Recreation & Parks

- Additional programming in Mississauga Celebration Square, \$0.1 million
- Street Tree Pruning, \$0.5 million

### Facilities and Property Management

- Lifecycle Repairs – Frank McKechnie Community Centre, \$2.6 million



2012 Gross Expenditures – \$599 million

\* Does not include 2012 Capital Infrastructure/Debt Financing

## Keeping the City Moving

With the third largest municipal transit system in Ontario, improving transit is critical to Mississauga's success. It will reduce congestion, keep our economy moving forward, provide residents with affordable transportation options and help reduce our impact on the environment. Already there have been a number of improvements to the MiWay transit service such as increased service during peak hours, a fully accessible low floor bus fleet and the addition of hybrid vehicles. In 2011, MiWay recorded the highest ever ridership – 32.8 million revenue rides, a 5.9 per cent increase over 2010. As well, work has already begun on the Mississauga Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project for east-west travel. The opening of the first section

from the City Centre to Dixie Station is planned for the fall of 2013.

Another project the City is working on to improve travel in our city is the Hurontario–Main LRT (Light Rail Transit) Project. Hurontario Street in Mississauga and Main Street in Brampton are more than key transportation routes. A proposal to develop a Light Rail Transit (LRT) system will have a significant impact on economic development, and greatly improve quality of life in Mississauga and Brampton. LRT provides a reliable and frequent transit option, offering convenient connections to inter-regional transit.

This spring, the Preliminary Design and Transit Project Assessment Process

(TPAP) Phase was launched to look at design alternatives for LRT. Public consultation was a key part of this phase of the project that ensures the system can be built the right way, at the right price and refines plans based on design, integration and affordability.

There is more work to be done to continue to ensure our city grows and develops with a reliable and convenient transit system. The City of Mississauga is committed to improving public transportation to help develop a transit-oriented City, and we are making progress. For more information visit: [miway.ca](http://miway.ca)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the City doing to minimize tax increases?

The City is focused on providing good value to our citizens. The 2012–2014 Business Plan and Budget Update includes savings from efficiencies and new revenues totalling over \$14.4 million over the next three years. \$9 million of this relates to new revenues which are primarily focused on transit ridership growth and fare increases. Reduced transit service on low performing routes, reduced facility operating costs, information technology maintenance expenses and contract adjustments are examples of over \$3.9 million in savings through efficiencies included in the 2012 Budget and will result in an additional \$1.4 million in reductions over the next three years.

### How does the provincial uploading of social services affect me in Mississauga?

Since 2008, the province has been gradually assuming some of the municipal costs associated with delivery of

provincially mandated social service programs such as the Ontario Disability Support Program which is delivered by Region of Peel. The savings realized from this uploading have been used to offset cost increases in other regional services, resulting in lower regional taxes. The Region's Regional tax rate increase was 1.7 per cent lower than what would otherwise have been without the provincial uploading which offsets the increase on your total tax bill.

### Who qualifies and how do you apply for the property tax rebate program?

A \$400 tax rebate is available for those 65 years of age and over receiving a Guaranteed Income Supplement or for disabled persons receiving income support under the Ontario Disability Support Program Act. Applications are available online, by mail or can be picked up in person at the Tax office. The application deadline is December 31st of the year in which the tax rebate is claimed. Call 3-1-1 (or 905-615-4311 outside city limits) if you have any questions about the program.

Visit [mississauga.ca/etax](http://mississauga.ca/etax) for further information, including access to a variety of services such as:

- Tax account details
- Change your mailing address, name, mortgage company or agent information
- Advise that you are moving
- Purchase a tax certificate
- Enrol in the Pre-authorized Tax Payment Plan (PTP)
- Manage your PTP banking information
- Manage your tax PIN
- Purchase a tax receipt

