

## No easy task to budget for 2018...

By: Sandra Dueck, Policy Analyst, Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

We are approaching the midway point of 2017, but the budget process for 2018 is officially underway at the City of Peterborough. The Director of Corporate Services has released the 2018 Budget Guideline Report and it was received as information by council earlier this week.

The 2018 proposed tax increase currently sits at 2.85%, which covers increased operating costs, an increase in sanitary and storm sewer operating and capital cost and an additional .5% to continue to implement the city's Capital Financing Policy. Overall, that would add \$109 to the combined municipal, education, storm and sewer surcharge levy on a house assessed at the median value of \$243,500.

### What does it mean for our business community?

There are several points to note, including the following taken directly from the city report:

"That the revised Tax Ratio Reduction Program continues for the 2018 Draft Budget and reflects reductions:

- i) to the Commercial and Industrial Class Tax Ratios but not the Multi-residential Class, and
- ii) at the reduced rate established through the 2016 Budget process, and
- iii) for the Commercial Class only, accelerated by a one-time amount of \$300,000."

The Tax Ratio Reduction Program was collaboratively lobbied for by the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce, the Kawartha Manufacturer's Association and the Peterborough and the Kawartha Association of Realtors. The goal of the program is to have the commercial and industrial tax rate 1.5 times that of residential. This result would make Peterborough more competitive on a tax basis with other mid-size cities in Ontario.

The guidelines also lay out the City's proposal to handle casino revenues and the monies from the sale of PDI to Hydro One. In each case, city staff is proposing that these revenues be directed to future capital projects.

That any additional investment proceeds in 2018 from the sale of Peterborough Distribution Inc., be directed towards enhancing Capital financing, and not be used for purposes of reduction in net tax levy.

"That, regarding any potential gaming revenues to be received from a Casino in 2018, the draft budget contain recommendations that will:

- i) Direct the City's share of all future municipal gaming revenues towards financing future Capital works, and not be used for purposes of reduction in net tax levy in the Operating Budget, and
- ii) Place any residual Gaming Revenues over and above the amount budgeted in 2018 in a new Gaming Revenues Reserve to be used to finance future capital works."

The Director of Corporate Services also recognizes various outside pressures on the budget in the 2018 guidelines, among them are the up-loading of Mandatory Benefits to the province and, changes to Children's Services as management of the Ontario Early Years Centres is moved to the municipality. Other outside



pressures include: an increase in hydro costs of approximately 6% over 2017, with an estimated budget impact of \$840,800 for heat and hydro when street light use is included; and the potential impact of an increase in minimum wage with preliminary estimates as high as a \$200,000 for 2018. The budget guidelines also suggest there may be future implications for costs of contracts with suppliers such as security, courier and cleaning services due to potential minimum wage changes. There is also concern that there may be budget impacts with other employment standards for equal pay for equal work for casual, part-time, temporary and seasonal employees.

The document also highlights transfers to other organizations that the city is committed to, including Fairhaven, the Downtown Business Improvement Area and police services.

For the 2018 Capital Budget, Council has pre-committed \$11,392,500 in funding to nine different projects or initiatives. Almost \$4.8 million is tax supported. City staff also cites 2018

will be the last year of funding for Hospice, the second year of funding for the Humane Society's Animal Care Centre, and they are also expecting a request for funding for the new Canoe Museum.

The budget guidelines also explore how a casino opening in June 2018 will impact the budget. A report from May 2016 estimated the construction value of a casino to be \$49 million and a hotel \$17 million with \$1 million generated in tax revenue. Because of the timing of opening and the difficulty of estimating gaming revenues, city staff are recommending the formation of a new Gaming Reserve Fund to be used to finance future capital works.

In summary, city staff reiterates that given the number of unknowns supporting existing levels of service at a reasonable cost to taxpayers will be a difficult task.

If you would like to comment or make a presentation on the 2018 budget, the first public meeting is June 28, 2017.

[peterboroughchamber.ca/blog](http://peterboroughchamber.ca/blog)

## Event Calendar



TUESDAY, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Elevating Experiential Tourism With Cycling And Customer Service

Elmhirst's Resort  
1045 Settler's Line, Keene



11:15am – 1:30pm

**Details:** Keynote speaker Howard Pulver from Bike ON Tours has compiled biking strategies and will share his experiences to show how working together can harness the growing potential of tourists to the Region. Panel discussion to follow.

**Register online:** [peterboroughchamber.ca/events](http://peterboroughchamber.ca/events)



Special Date!

WEDNESDAY, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### PBX Summer Social @ Kawartha Lakes Construction



3359 Lakefield Rd

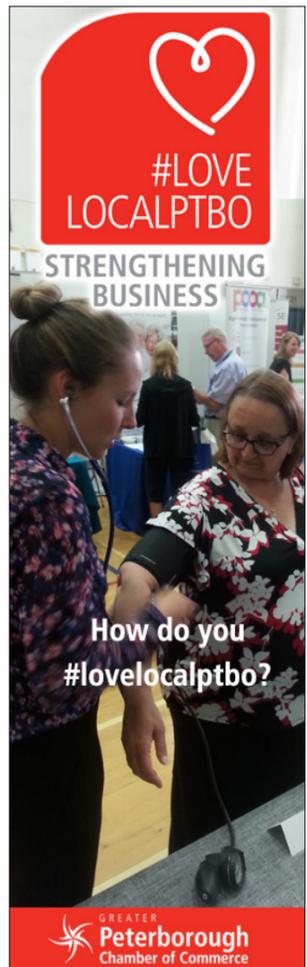
4:00pm – 6:00pm

**Details:** Join us to learn more about this custom home and cottage design/build firm.

PBX is a great opportunity for the business community, employers, consumers, and community agencies to make valuable connections.

Bring your business cards!

**Cost:** Free, courtesy of Shorelines Slots at Kawartha Downs



## CCC: Skills Program for an Automated Future launched

The Canadian business sector must prepare itself now for major changes coming to the labour market which could affect up to 32% of jobs, reveal participants of a roundtable hosted by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. This roundtable kicked off a series of such events which will be held across the country with the goal of exploring how businesses can find the talent they need to remain competitive in a world of changing technology.

The first Skills for an Automated Future roundtable took place at

Ryerson University's G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education on June 8 with experts weighing in on some of the major challenges facing Canadian companies.

The panel was part of a larger project the Chamber is launching on the future of Canadian skills and training. The project will examine how Canada needs to respond as the pace of technology increases and lead to an in-depth report.

Advances in automation and artificial intelligence could significantly alter Canadians' jobs,

according to the most recent OECD projections. Current training programs, such as the Canada Job Grant, are at risk of no longer functioning and both government and business will need to do more to adapt in this new technological climate.

With future roundtables planned for Calgary and Ottawa, the project aims to narrow in on the policy changes needed in areas such as immigration and skills training in order to keep Canadian employers and workers competitive.

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OCC Spring Survey: Make Your Voice Heard

Complete the Ontario Chamber of Commerce's (OCC) annual spring survey.

Help the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce and OCC advocate for you, it only takes five minutes!

[peterboroughchamber.ca/blog](http://peterboroughchamber.ca/blog)

Survey closes Friday, June 23, 2017

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### New Web-based Human Resources & Payroll System from SHRP

Chamber Member, Matthew Savino, Managing Director of SHRP Limited, has co-founded "HRLive" -- an online software company dedicated to meeting the day-to-day HR requirements of small-to-medium

sized enterprises with timely, cost-effective HR support.

With HRLive.ca, they now offer a fully managed Human Resources Program to help employers organize and automate employee file



information, compliance requirements, documentation, workflow, policies, performance appraisals and other HR processes. It also offers a completely integrated Payroll system if needed.

More: [savinohrp.ca](http://savinohrp.ca)

### More than 3,000 safe nights raised at Walk A Mile event

Congratulations to all the teams, donors and sponsors of the 2017 YWCA's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes



event held Friday, May 26, 2017. The event raised \$138,204.12 which translates into the ability to provide over 3,000 safe nights for women and children in Peterborough.

More: [ywcapeterborough.org](http://ywcapeterborough.org)



[www.peterboroughchamber.ca](http://www.peterboroughchamber.ca)

## They really know their business... And they take the time to know ours.

For over twenty-five years Peterborough RV has relied on Nexicom to provide our family business with all of our communications needs. Nexicom is always there when we need them and they continue to offer new ideas on how to save our company time and money. In fact, I am so pleased with their service that I recommend Nexicom to everyone, for their business or their home.

With Nexicom, we are never left feeling like just another number, and I didn't expect that!

Kati Allain-Johnson  
Family Business Owner and Service Manager  
Peterborough RV



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