



## TAXES GOING DOWN IN BLUEWATER

Bluewater Council approved the 2018 municipal budget on Monday – a budget in which the municipal residential tax rate is going down by 3.85%.

When asked what the dollar implications will be for the average household, Mayor Tyler Hessel stated, “The average residential assessment for 2018 is \$267,341. Therefore, the average residential household will pay \$119.20 less than they did last year.”

Although the tax levy – the total taxes collected to balance municipal expenses – has gone up \$100,279 or .32% over last year’s budget, much of this increase is based upon non-discretionary items. For example, \$61,177 is due to higher costs associated with policing, which is not under municipal control. Other non-discretionary costs include hydro, insurance and the conservation authority.

And while the budget for non-discretionary items has increased, discretionary costs – those under the municipality’s control – have gone down by 2.74%.

Bluewater strives to use tax dollars both effectively and efficiently, in order to keep taxes as low as possible while still providing services which add to an excellent quality of life for our residents.

Projects within the 2018 budget include: ongoing support for the Blue Flag Program at the Bayfield Beach and Marina and the Communities in Bloom Program; municipal grants to local non-profit organizations; new fleet upgrades; road construction; repairs to the Hensall Fire Station Parking Lot; drainage works; water and wastewater system upgrades and/or maintenance; and transfers to reserves.