

January 7, 2012

## **Are you prepared for the biggest municipal tax grab since 2004?**

The town is proposing a **8.06% tax levy or increase in 2012**. The town will argue that **the blended overall rate for tax purposes will only be 4.04%** and will result in only a \$118.00 increase on your 2012 taxes (based on a property assessed at \$300,000). This may not sound like much but this amount alone will wipe out any cost of living increase relied on by our seniors. I can also assure you that this dollar amount will be higher for most properties in our community with an expected 5.0% increase in their market value assessment and another \$150.00 in taxes. Here's how it works:

2011 -	\$300,000 X 0.00990932	= \$2,972.80
2012 -	\$300,000 x 1.05 x 0.00990932 x 4.04%	= \$3,247.54
<b>Differential</b>		<b>\$ 274.74</b>

The town is also expecting you to now pay \$2.00 for every bag collected at curbside and multiple unit complexes will pay \$28.00. **No free bags any more!** They want the money to support other areas of their bureaucracy. Of course, this amount is just a start and will increase every year until there is full cost recovery (now estimated to be \$2.45 for every bag). Can you imagine a \$4.00 per bag charge in 5 years? I can.

Finally, the town wants to raise **our water rates by 6.25% next year** and **wastewater rates (sanitary sewers) by 7.25%** next year with continuous increases for the next 10-20 years – the sky is the limit! They say that these substantial increases are provincially regulated and are needed to provide for future replacement of existing infrastructure. However, rising and uncontrollable operational expenses including salaries, will be buried in these increases. We currently have four members of Council who pay no utility rates but want current users to pay for future benefitting owners – is that fair? Aren't the future infrastructure needs a town-wide responsibility? Expect to pay huge increases compounding to over 75% over the next 10 years and possibly doubling in 15 years.

If the news of these substantial increases disturbs you, then **you must attend** the Statutory Public meeting on **January 23, 2012** to “air out” your comments, suggestions, complaints and thoughts. You can also express your concerns or your dissatisfaction with this Council by writing a short email/letter to Mayor and Council (copy to the Town Clerk, Corrina Giles at [cgiles@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:cgiles@thebluemountains.ca) by **January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012** and to me at [mpseguin@rogers.com](mailto:mpseguin@rogers.com) ).

Remember, this is not a done deal yet, **if enough people express their concerns or dissatisfaction**. As I said in my message, if you do nothing, then you can't complain when you receive your first bills. It will be too late!

Michael P. Seguin  
President, Blue Mountain Ratepayers' Association