



January 2, 2024

Council of the Township of Georgian Bay

99 Lone Pine Rd., Port Severn, Ont., L0K 1S0

Dear Councilors,

RE: 2024 Budget

On behalf of our CCA Membership, the CCA Board wrote to you on November 10 when the 1st Draft of the Budget came out with some commentary and suggestions.

Clearly, that letter and our suggestions fell on deaf ears. None of our suggestions were taken into account, nor even acknowledged during your published budget deliberations, nor was our letter responded to. That is very discouraging. If some 400 households can't get a hearing by Council, it seems clear seasonal taxpayers don't have a say.

Draft #2 was approved in December with a 6% tax increase. Far from congratulating staff on a job well done, they should have been instructed to come up with more savings. Most of what has been done is finding more and different ways to raise revenues to cover a shortfall that is 10% more than last year, even with those new revenues assumed to be coming. You, as councilors, should have insisted on a more sustainable budget. A 6% annual increase in taxes would have taxes double in less than 12 years. That is less than a generation! At that rate, how many of our children will be able to afford to keep our cottages? It is less than the time it has taken the TGB staff count to double.

Where is the initiative to examine what services TGB provides and what it should provide?

Where is an examination and supporting rationale on the real value of staff roles with the municipality?

Where is the recognition that deficits can't go up by 10% year over year?

How is it that District taxes are going up by less than 4%, Education by (hopefully) 0%, and TGB can't keep its costs in line?

These questions need answers and action. Just ignoring them and carrying on with year over year undisciplined tax increases is just not acceptable.

Yours sincerely,

Board of Directors

Cognashene Cottagers Association