



29 November 2019

Mayor Glover and Councillors Lacroix, Peppard, Anderson, Brooks, Godard, and Tapley  
Township of Lake of Bays  
1012 Dwight Beach Road  
Dwight ON P0A 1H0  
By E-mail

**Regarding:** 2020 Township of Lake of Bays Budget

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing as President of the Lake of Bays Association to ask you to consider our comments below as you review and vote on the 2020 Township of Lake of Bays budget. Members of our Finance Committee reviewed ten years of Township budgets and discussion documents and note a trend of much greater-than-inflation levy increases, whereas other levels of government are holding to more realistic (and fairer) increases.

- From 2009 to 2019 the Township portion of the levy has increased approximately 75%, which is an average of 5.8% per year. The median increase is 5.2%. (source: Township documents/tax bills)
- Over the same time period the District of Muskoka levy growth has been approximately 28%, or an average of 2.55% annually. (source: Township documents/tax bills)
- The average annual rate of inflation during this period (October 2009 to October 2019) has been 1.77% (source: Bank of Canada)
- The average waterfront assessment in the Township of Lake of Bays is \$585,119 not the \$300,000 used for illustrative purposes, meaning the dollar increase quoted is only half or less of what most of our members will pay. The average non-waterfront assessment is \$142,055 (source: MPAC via Township)
- Based on the November 19 Council deliberations, the Township is recommending a 5.95% increase for 2020. The increase in 2019 was 7.33%. That is a 13.28% increase in the first two years of this Council's mandate.
- Should you wish to avail yourselves of our backup data and calculations, they are available upon request.

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In summary, we firmly believe that in the current fiscal environment, the proposed increase for this year is excessive and suggest that you consider trimming service levels and/or expenses in an effort to bring the levy increase in line with, at the very least, current inflation rates.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter and trust that you appreciate the spirit and intent in which our interest is being conveyed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ma Peden".

Mary Ann Peden  
President

cc.

Carrie Sykes, Clerk, Township of Lake of Bays

Michelle Percival, CAO, Township of Lake of Bays

Tom Gefucia, Treasurer, Township of Lake of Bays

Lake of Bays Association Board of Directors

Lake of Bays Association membership via Newsflash