



On Nov. 5, 2024, the Town of Georgina released its 2025 proposed budget. It builds on the Town's commitment to meeting the needs of a growing community while managing fiscal responsibility.

The proposed operating budget for 2025 totals \$106.4 million and it includes a 2.99 per cent increase in the operating tax levy. This increase is primarily driven by inflationary and contractual pressures, creating a rising cost in service delivery.

The 2025 capital budget totals \$36.3 million, with a focus on key projects that support Georgina's growing population and infrastructure needs. Additionally, a two per cent infrastructure levy has been proposed to address Georgina's current infrastructure funding gap. This levy is earmarked for the Town's 10-year capital program, which includes \$230 million in non-growth-related infrastructure repair and replacements, which focuses on maintaining and upgrading key assets, such as roads, parks and facilities.

In line with efforts to support sustainable water and environmental management, the Town's water and wastewater rates are expected to increase by 9.1 per cent for a typical household of 165m<sup>3</sup>/annum in consumption. In addition, the stormwater rate is set to increase by two per cent over the 2024 annualized rate, addressing the need for improvements in stormwater management systems as the Town continues to experience growth and climate-related challenges.

### Below are some of the initiatives proposed for 2025:

- \$4.5 million for road repairs and reconstruction, funded by grants
- \$3.9 million for Old Shiloh Bridge, funded by tax levy discretionary reserves
- \$2.4 million for High Street streetscapes and infrastructure, funded by tax levy and water/wastewater discretionary reserves
- \$2.4 million for various stormwater drainage improvements, funded by stormwater reserves
- \$1.9 million for the design of the South Keswick Fire Station and York Region EMS, funded by development charges and York Region EMS recovery
- \$1.7 million for the construction of a fire and rescue training facility, funded by development charges and a grant
- \$580,000 for parking lot replacements at the Sutton Arena and the Georgina Arts Centre, funded by tax levy discretionary reserves
- \$500,000 for the design of Willow Beach and various waterfront park upgrades, funded by tax levy discretionary reserves
- \$355,000 for non-profit Community Organization grants, funded by tax levy
- \$225,000 for the Georgina Ice Palace seating replacement, funded by tax levy discretionary reserves
- \$150,000 for the High Castle playground replacement, funded by tax levy discretionary reserves
- \$90,000 for the revitalization of Jackson's Point Parkette, funded by cash in lieu of parkland
- \$25,000 for a grant to the Georgina Food Pantry, funded by tax levy

## **Below are some frequently asked questions relating to the 2025 proposed budget and budgeting in general:**

### **How much will my tax and water bills go up based on the proposed increases?**

For an average single-family detached residential property, assessed at \$452,000, the average homeowner will see an increase of \$81 per year for the tax levy operating increase of 2.99 per cent and an additional increase of \$54 per year for the infrastructure levy of two per cent.

For households on water and wastewater services, the 9.1 per cent increase will result in a quarterly billing increase of \$27, based on the average household consumption of 165m<sup>3</sup>/annum.

### **Why do we need a stormwater fee and how much can I expect to pay?**

A stormwater charge is levied to help fund the management and maintenance of stormwater systems. These systems are responsible for controlling rainwater runoff, preventing flooding, and ensuring that water is properly drained from streets, parking lots and other areas.

Stormwater fees are crucial because they provide a dedicated source of funding for maintaining and improving stormwater infrastructure. The median (50th percentile) residential fee that was proposed in the 2025 budget will be approximately \$139, which is an increase of \$16 over the total amount paid in 2024 for stormwater services. This increase includes the two per cent rate increase as well as the increase necessary for services to be fully funded at 100 per cent instead of approximately 90 per cent in 2024.

### **Is there a tax levy increase for the replacement Civic Centre in the 2025 budget?**

There is no tax levy increase relating to the replacement Civic Centre in the 2025 budget. The funding for the construction of the replacement Civic Centre was established during the 2023 and 2024 budget process and there will be no additional tax levy increases required for this project.

### **Why has the Town hired so many new positions over the past five years?**

Georgina is a growing municipality. New positions generally are a result of legislative, service level or growth-related impacts. More than 50 per cent of positions hired over the past five years are directly related to growth and were funded by growth-related revenues, such as assessment growth, with no tax levy increases.

### **What are assessment growth and development charge revenues?**

Assessment growth refers to new taxes collected from newly constructed or expanded homes and businesses to fund the Town services they receive (operating budget costs). Development charges, on the other hand, are fees levied by the Town on new development projects – such as residential, commercial and industrial buildings – to help pay for the new infrastructure needed (capital budget costs). Development charges are typically paid by developers at the time of building permit issuance. The MURC is a prime example of “growth paying for growth,” as there was no tax levy impact for existing residents in terms of either operating or capital expenditures for this facility.

This was made possible through strategic financial planning and careful allocation of revenues from assessment growth and development charge collections.

### **Is the two per cent infrastructure levy really necessary, or is it just building up large reserve funds?**

The annual infrastructure levy is necessary to fund the Town’s \$230 million 10-year capital plan for projects that aren’t related to growth. The levy is intended to ensure capital investments are delivered in the community annually and it is not intended to just build reserve balances.