



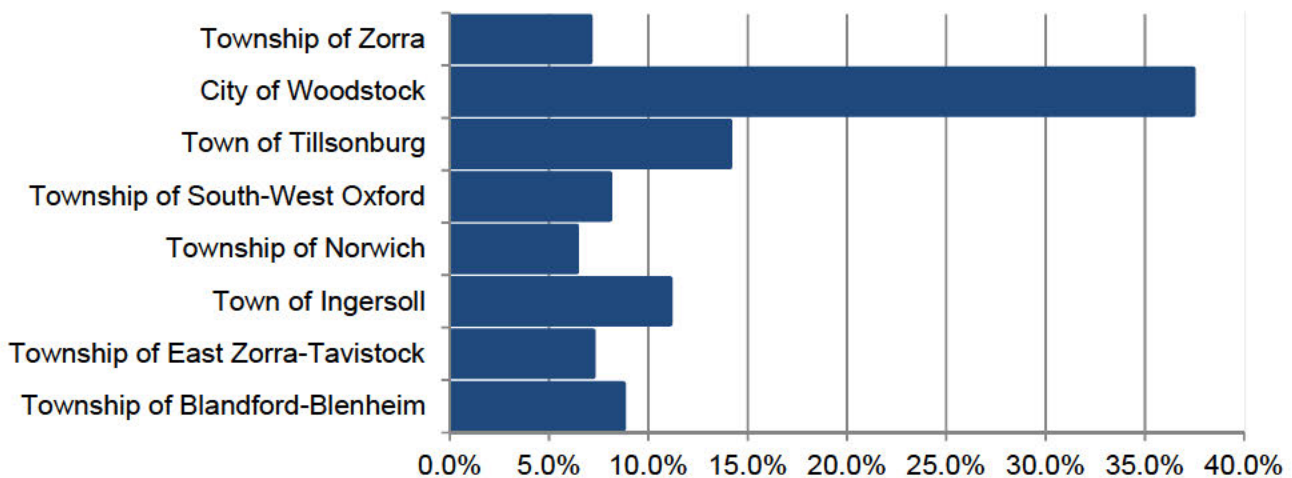
2022 Budget Survey Responses

Context

The following are the responses received from the 2022 Budget Survey from June 9 to August 31, 2021. The survey was intended to see how residents wanted to see their tax dollars spent as well as identify which services are the most important. On County-specific questions, respondents were asked to indicate how the County should set its service levels for the 2022 budget.

Where do you live?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Township of Blandford-Blenheim	8.7%	52
Township of East Zorra-Tavistock	7.2%	43
Town of Ingersoll	11.1%	66
Township of Norwich	6.4%	38
Township of South-West Oxford	8.1%	48
Town of Tillsonburg	14.1%	84
City of Woodstock	37.4%	223
Township of Zorra	7.0%	42
<i>answered question</i>		596
<i>skipped question</i>		0



How many years have you lived in your municipality?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 1 year	8.4%	50
2-5 years	18.7%	111
6-10 years	17.0%	101
11-20 years	13.8%	82
More than 20 years	42.0%	249
Not a resident	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		593
<i>skipped question</i>		3

In what age category do you fall in?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
25-34	19.4%	115
45-64	38.6%	229
35-44	23.8%	141
65+	14.0%	83
15-24	3.2%	19
Prefer not to say	1.0%	6
<i>answered question</i>		593
<i>skipped question</i>		3

How did you hear about this survey? [select all]

Answer Options	Response Count
Social media	278
News media (e.g. local newspaper, radio)	135
Council	9
Mail/e-mail	128
From someone else	24
Website	30
Other (please specify)	27
<i>By chance</i>	1
<i>co worker</i>	1
<i>Facebook</i>	1
<i>Facebook friend</i>	1
<i>Facebook Sub division Group</i>	1
<i>Flyer attached to Property Tax</i>	1
<i>Heart fm</i>	1
<i>HeartFm</i>	1
<i>insert in Tax bill</i>	1
<i>My husband</i>	1
<i>pamphlet at township hall</i>	1
<i>Princeton Public Library</i>	1
<i>property tax bill</i>	1
<i>Property Tax Bill incert</i>	1
<i>Property tax statement</i>	1
<i>Radio 104.7</i>	1
<i>Received notice with tax bill</i>	1
<i>searching for tax information</i>	1
<i>Survey card at township office</i>	1
<i>tax bill</i>	1
<i>Tax bill insert</i>	1
<i>The Village Voice</i>	1
<i>Through work (SWOX)</i>	1
<i>Village voice</i>	1
<i>Woodstock Chamber email newsletter</i>	1
<i>Wow magazine</i>	1
<i>y</i>	1
answered question	631

How would you like to be informed about the 2022 Budget process? [Select all]

Answer Options	Response Count
Website updates	215
Social media	195
Email communication	140
Read summary document or fact sheet/infographic	120
Attend a webinar or online event	22
Attend the budget meeting	20
Other	13
<i>Budget mailed to homes</i>	1
<i>Document with tax bill</i>	1
<i>Heart FM, Sentinel-Review stories</i>	1
<i>local newspaper</i>	1
<i>Local newspaper should highlight</i>	1
<i>Mayors Facebook</i>	1
<i>Most of us pay property taxes. Enclosing about the budget, operation etc of the County, Towns would be another method of reaching citizens.hip</i>	1
<i>news</i>	1
<i>none</i>	1
<i>Perhaps enclose an update or a summary inside a mailing from the Town of Ingersoll or from, say, EARTH Power if it works in cooperation with the Town in occasionally providing important community updates to Ingersoll residents. I would also "possibly" consider communication by e-mail, but I do have some concerns about confidentiality/privacy when it comes to e-mails.</i>	1
<i>Regular mail with more than a 2 week turn around time</i>	1
<i>Village voice</i>	1
<i>written materials distributed to residence</i>	1
answered question	725

What would you say are the top priorities for your community right now? (top 4)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Affordable housing	9.8%	221
Active living – Parks & Trails	7.6%	171
Downtown Revitalization	6.9%	157
Safe Communities – Police	6.0%	135
Economic development	5.4%	122
Public Health – i.e. addiction services, health Community Initiatives	5.1%	116
Active living – Recreation	4.8%	108
Social issues – Poverty	4.8%	108
Infrastructure – Roads & bridges	4.6%	103
Environmental/climate change/sustainability	4.4%	100
Information – High speed internet	3.9%	87
Waste Management – Recycling/Diversion	3.5%	78
Long term care	3.1%	71
Forestry/Wetlands Preservation	2.6%	59
Economy	2.6%	58
Waste Management – Curbside collection	2.3%	53
Quality Neighbourhoods – Property standards and By-law	2.3%	51
Quality Neighbourhoods – Planning	2.1%	48
Social issues – Childcare	2.1%	48
Community engagement	2.1%	47
Infrastructure – Water	1.7%	39
Safe Communities – Paramedic services	1.7%	38
Snow/Ice Control	1.5%	35
Transparency and communication	1.5%	35
Waste Management - Waste Disposal (Landfill)	1.2%	26
Arts and culture	1.1%	25
Library services	1.0%	23
Infrastructure – Wastewater	0.8%	18
Infrastructure – Storm water	0.6%	14
Transit - Inter-regional transportation	0.6%	13
Emergency Management	0.5%	12
Transit	0.5%	12
Safe Communities – Fire	0.4%	10
Active Transportation	0.4%	9
I don't know	0.4%	9
		2259
<i>skipped question</i>		125

Thinking about the most recent programs or services you accessed or used in the past year, how satisfied were you with:

Answer Options	Response Count	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Not very satisfied	Not satisfied at all	Don't know/ no recent services accessed	Skipped Question
The overall quality of program or service	596	68	199	60	36	197	36
Getting what you needed	596	63	190	69	39	201	34
Accessibility of the program or service	596	64	186	66	33	211	36
The amount of time it took to get the program or service	596	57	181	66	41	212	39

Thinking about your recent contact(s) with municipal services, please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

Answer Options	Response Count	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ no recent contact	Skipped Question
I found the information I was searching for	596	62	162	80	31	27	197	37
Staff are courteous, helpful and knowledgeable	596	99	113	72	26	18	232	36
I received my information in a timely manner	596	72	118	80	28	29	229	40
Staff are easy to get a hold of when I need them	596	67	104	76	41	33	234	41

County Question 1: Transportation Services – County Roads and Bridges

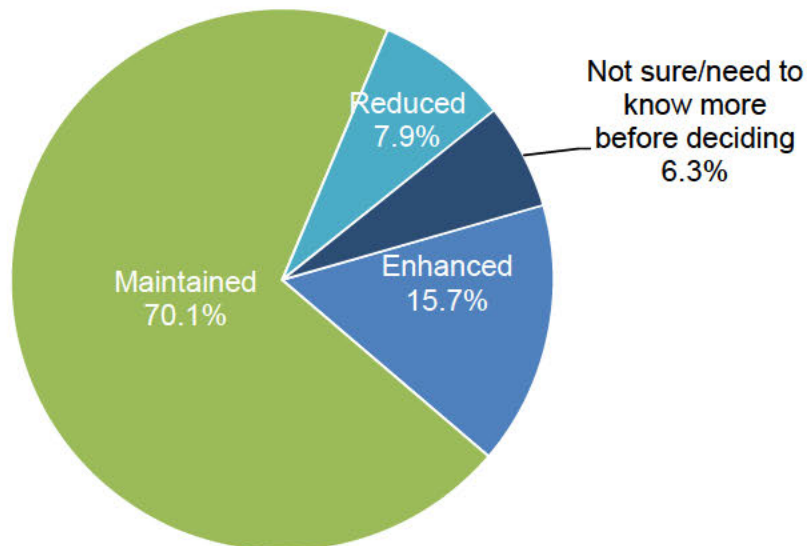
2021 taxes for a \$250,000 residential property would be **\$291**

Quick facts

- Transportation Services is responsible for transportation planning, traffic calming and maintaining roads and bridges on Oxford’s major roads and highways.
- The County maintains 1,228 lane kilometers roads and 161 bridges structures/culverts 39 intersections, 1,000 regulatory signs and 7 controlled pedestrian crossings. In 2020, 32 km roads were repaved and responded to 61 winter events that either met or exceed municipal service level standard.
- According to the current Asset Management Plan, the condition of the roads are rates as excellent and bridges are rated as good.
- Annually, the capital budget is increased by \$500,000 in order to sustainably maintain infrastructure systems in good condition.

Should this investment be:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enhanced	15.7%	80
Maintained	70.1%	357
Reduced	7.9%	40
Not sure/need to know more before deciding	6.3%	32
<i>answered question</i>		509
<i>skipped question</i>		87



County Question 1: Transportation Services – County Roads and Bridges

Comments
Enhanced
Add photo radar to roads, especially those where community planning was not well done (e.g. County Road 17) Add roundabouts rather than stop signs/lights.
In SW Oxford, pave East Hill Line in Beachville to Karn Road so Beachville residents can get to work and shopping in Woodstock easier.
Inter community transit would benefit rural areas and take pressure of urban areas and provide more business opportunities for both. economic growth etc.
Maintained or enhanced, preferably enhanced. There is so much speeding in this city it's not funny. We also have an unusually large number of people who shouldn't be driving at all. People who purposely blow through stop signs every single time they approach. I don't know if this is some kind of new "Tide Pod Challenge" or what the deal is but it's frightening. They increase their speed approaching the stop sign and just blow right through. Someone is going to be killed and this is happening at several stop signs through out the city. Traffic calming and increased fines by police would be a good start. Also move around the digital speeding signs that radar the speed, show the speed and tell people to slow down. People stop seeing them when they've sat in one place too long. WPD just needs to do unannounced blitzes throughout the year on each kind of traffic violation...a continuous cycle of blitzes. I feel one of the biggest reasons people do it is b/c they receive no consequences. If they were being stopped and ticketed, their insurance companies would make sure they straighten up and fly right, in a big hurry.
Overall condition of roads and bridges appears to be good. Gravel roads could be graded a little more often
Oxford county should be helping the townships pave all the roads in the county since they are used by members of the county. Unpaved roads cause major pressure on paved roads. It should be important to the county to pave all the roads within it instead of just saying it's the townships job.
Roads like Huron Street, Main Street, sections of Nellis street are HORRIBLE, and have not been repaired in years!!! Yet other roads have had several resurfaces done every 2-3 years. By all appearances, you fix the roads more used by visitors to the city to maintain a good image, but ignore the downtown (yet again!) where a main thoroughfare such as Huron Street is CONSTANTLY used by thousands of cars per day and hasn't been repaired in decades!!!!
The roads are NOT good. In some places the are terrible. Car rattling bad. Bridges across the Thames need to be 4 laned. Vansit bridge reconstructed. Vansit/Dundas light. Impossible to make a L hand turn o to Dundas.
The roads in my community are not excellent so need a plan to fix this
Way too much traffic on our small roads now.
Wherever doable and especially in planned high traffic in newer development areas, roundabouts should be considered. The benefits are so much better when planned in advance for long term growth. This can even be included in industrial developments too. There are places where factories are actually built in the center of gigantic roundabouts. We also have to welcome the High Speed Train from London to Toronto.
Wider paved shoulders or dedicated trails for cyclists.
Our road is very poor at times.
I was in Paris recently and was happy to see "speed bumps" along the pedestrian walks. Norwich could use pedestrian walk ways in several places. This would make traffic slow down as too many vehicles actually race right through downtown. People are walking here! Tractors and pulling wagons and other gear should not be immune to 50Kkm or less. Like much of Canada, it takes WAY too long for roads to be repaired.
Yes the roads are good etc., but the young and old should not have to walk on the roads to get their mail or go to school. What percentage of the budget is set aside for sidewalks? It should be enhanced.

More traffic calming actions would be nice to see in town. Especially in community safety zones and residential areas.

Farmer's heavy equipment use and wear on roads

I feel the county is growing in a big way, and properly planning long term goals, traffic, flow etc is a big priority.

Maintained

But if for a year all is good reallocate temporarily. We all know when there are too many funds allocated they are spent because the department would fear not getting in the next year. This thinking has to change and that starts at the top by allowing budgets to be reduced when not needed in a given year but reinstating the following year.

Focus on improving transit by syncing up lights in the city of Woodstock. Our town gets halted at rush hour by folks stopping at every red light on their commute.

I would like to see more roundabouts used within the community. I know the investment costs between roundabout vs. a 4-way stop or a traffic light are quite wide but the traffic flow is just so much nicer and easier to use. I would also like to see some wider paved shoulders that would allow safer biking/walking

Less sand on the roads, its unreal how much sand is put down in some areas.

Less urban sprawl to reduce pressure on our existing infrastructure. Increased housing density in downtown areas.

Managed this better. Reduce costs.

Need to improve all road crossings at watercourses to be clear span to allow for flooding and wildlife corridors

Please have someone come to the town of Bright- nobody seems to ever come and notice that our roads and sidewalks need maintenance.

Roads and bridges are good

Roads seem good.

I think that we have quality roads and bridges in Oxford, our infrastructure is in good shape. It is most noticeable when you travel slightly out of County to any of the neighbouring Countys. It seems like Oxford has more up to date infrastructure and roads.

I sincerely wish something could be done about the uneven sidewalks. I use a mobility scooter to get around and some of the bumps and cracks are awful, even on the paved sections of the walking trail. Terrible trip hazards as well. That is if you don't get killed crossing Canterbury St. between Memorial Park and Smith's Pond...some people turn the corner on two wheels and are under the misconception that the vehicles have the right of way. Very dangerous crossing. Paving the old horse track all the way around would be awesome!

Add passing lanes and turning lanes to Hwy 19 north.

Just at least COVID expenses die down.

Our city is growing because of Toyota. Encourage some growth. Our roads have to be maintained to have this happen.

I travel to Middlesex & Waterloo frequently. I'm impressed with the quality of road maintenance in Oxford overall but in particular during the winter months.

status quo

Reduced

And yet again. With the price of housing jumped up so high, and the lack of work for many I personally can NOT afford more money to be spent on this.

Get rid of overpaid employees

I often see many county workers standing around doing nothing, I think we could have better time management for county workers and better organization overall that would allow for cuts in the form of salaries paid

Taxes should be reduced.

The roads managed by the county are fine; the roads managed by the city are a mess. The city should have a clear process like an online form for residents to report problem zones and to request traffic signals, like other municipalities do.

This amount seems high, perhaps some efficiencies can be found to improve upon the costs to maintain the infrastructure. Also, putting an additional \$500k/year away in reserves is too much.

Stop repaving perfectly good roads and making them worse.

we have some very poor roads in the county and the road crew is full of half assed workers. Fire them all and hire a crew that knows how to put in the work and knows what they are doing. Taking 8 hours to throw cold patch all over a .25km road is not efficient.

The roads are in terrible shape. You are over paying for what we are getting.

500

decrease the annual increase.

Not sure/need to know more before deciding

does not apply to me I do not drive

In the event of any new bridge construction or bridge replacement in Oxford County, I would like to see more attention paid to design aesthetics. Obviously, functionality and safety (and cost) are the most important considerations, but bridges of the past had architectural value as well. This doesn't seem to be the case anymore. Modern bridges all seem to be identical and uninspired in appearance. Maybe the County could have a design competition -- open to architectural students and vetted by qualified engineers -- when planning for a new or replacement bridge. This might not be practical for every new bridge, but could it not at least be considered on occasion? Also on the subject of transportation, to what extent has the County of Oxford looked into electrifying its fleet of vehicles? (Even a phased-in program would demonstrate impressive environmental leadership.)

Skipped Question

The planned Capex projects will enhance services. Consider the installation of physical speed control measures and/or means of monitoring, between more heavily populated areas (Woodstock/Ingersoll) to protect the H&S of our pedestrians and to generate funds for future asset management initiatives.

County Question 2: Waste Management

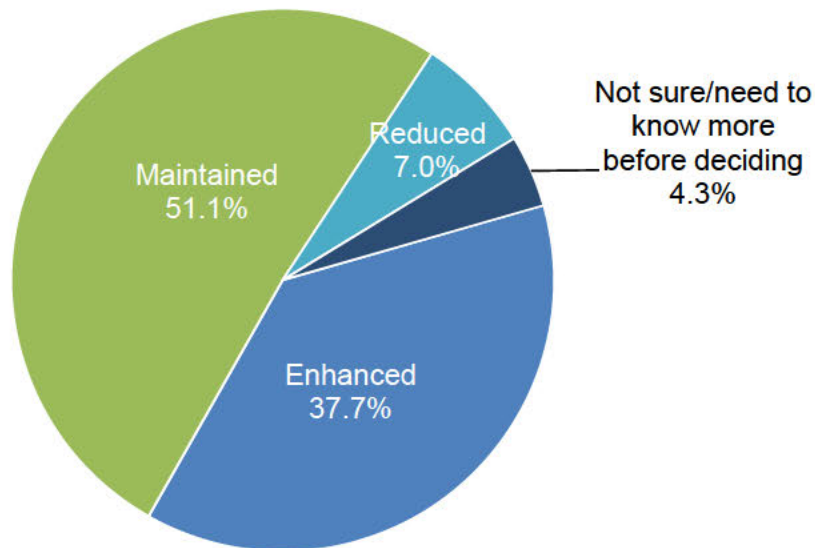
2021 taxes for a \$250,000 residential property would be **\$44**

Quick facts

- Waste management services include curbside collection for garbage and recycling, depots and special events, large article pick-up, and services at the Oxford County Waste Management Facility (OCWMF) in Salford.
- In 2020, the OCWMF handled over 96,000 tonnes of waste. Approximately 37,000 tonnes of waste handled was diverted from the landfill including over 20,000 tonnes of finished compost and over 8,000 tonnes of blue box recyclable materials. The estimated remaining life of the landfill is approximately 30 to 35 years.

Should this investment be:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enhanced	37.7%	194
Maintained	51.1%	263
Reduced	7.0%	36
Not sure/need to know more before deciding	4.3%	22
<i>answered question</i>		515
<i>skipped question</i>		81



County Question 2: Waste Management

Comments

Enhanced

1. we need a green bin curbside pickup program. more waste needs to be diverted 2. people abuse the large article pick-up rules need to change. most residents own cars and if the item is small enough to put in a car they should drive it to the depot themselves. something would need to be offered for those who cannot deliver their item to the depot. 3. educate residents on what can actually go in the blue box.

A green bin program should be started for all communities. The county is against the proposed new landfill but is not doing all we can to eliminate the garbage that we produce. This would increase what we divert from landfill.

Add a compost collection !

As a newer resident to the county, the recycling program is extremely lacking. We come from Guelph where the garbage was in reusable bins, not plastic bags, and recycling was collected more than garbage because everything was recyclable and garbage was discouraged. These programs obviously cost money to initiate and get geared up so this budget needs to be enhanced.

as long as does not put up taxes, find other ways to save within

Bag tag costs drive residents to dump garbage illegally, especially when they come from cities where the first 1-2 bags of garbage were free. This behaviour, combined with new construction at the city's periphery, will worsen rodent problems.

Bag tags are ridiculous for what we pay in taxes and no compost pickup. Not to mention the guys picking up the garbage picking through etc.

Better system for recycling would be good Lose the bag tag fee

Collect recycling weekly Collect compost in green bins to divert further garbage from landfills

Curbside green bin for organics pickup would reduce waste significantly.

Community Centre, and while the recycling bins are there--EVERYTHING goes in the landfill. This is the same for ALL large public areas. Educate the public, make it easy and accessible to recycle, but actually do it!

Enhance to include a green bin organic pickup program as well as weekly recycling pickup and more frequent large item pickup.

Enhanced to include Kitchen waste pickup as well as but not for me personally, weekly recycling as I'm always hearing families say they have too much recycling piling up. Waste management issues are not high on my priority list for this survey though. It wouldn't even be in my top five. Again, Addiction related Crime, Addiction itself, Mental illness and Homelessness would be my top priorities in this city.

Enhanced to include organic program ASAP.

Green bin and yard waste pick up would be nice and would reduce these items going to the landfill

I am not a fan of bag tags for garbage. I feel its a double edged sword. Meaning, as I reduce my garbage I buy fewer tags. If everyone in town bought fewer tags then we have less revenue from the tags to pay for the garbage collection. However, does the cost of garbage collection go down when there are fewer bags collected? Does the driver of the garbage truck accept a lower wage when there are fewer bags to collect? If not, then we are forced to pay more per tag to make up for buying fewer tags. If we had a green bin program to collect most food waste we could get away with 1 bag of garbage every 2-3 weeks. I really am in support of a green bin, but fear that it will make our garbage bag tags increase in price since there will be fewer tags purchased.

I feel waste management and recycling efforts should be increased everywhere.

I personally am not happy with our latest contract for garbage and recycling removal. The list of things we can no longer recycle (which IMO should be recycled the most!) was eliminated. We need a contract that encourages recycling to it's fullest, keeping much needed plastics out of our landfills.

I think our taxes are high enough as it is considering we pay for garbage tags

I'd like to see a food waste pick up program with user fees. ie. Green bins Back yard food compost encourages pests. Food waste in garbage encourages wildlife to tear it apart. Food waste compost in county facilities can yield rich, garden compost for everyone.

Increase recycling to every week, better advertise options for green waste/composting (food, grass, leaves) it's time for curbside compost.

Large item pick up should be increased to twice per year and include hazardous waste such as paint cans, used motor oil etc. Cameras should be installed at the Drumbo leaf/brush dump to catch and prosecute those who continue to abuse the facility by dumping garbage items there.

Like to see items collected for recycle enhanced

More diversion.

More items allowed in recycling

More recycling of more materials. Stop requiring garbage bags in garbage pails! That is stupid and contradicts the purpose of using pails to reduce the use of plastic going into the dump.

Not everyone has the ability to take large articles to the landfill and it would be great if there was a large article pickup twice a year, with expanded variety of items.

Offer kitchen green bin compost service to all residents.

Our recycling and compost options in Ontario are lacking. Need to increase the diversion options to keep our landfills free of items we can use alternatively.

Our Recycling program is among worse I've seen and I am familiar with others, including in Europe. The amount of items not accepted in recycle is outrageous. putting those items into garbage and sending it to landfills is very irresponsible and shameful, it's 2021 and we still don't have effective recycling program. Shame on OXFORD county.

Please enhance to weekly recycling pickup.

Please increase recycling pickup to every week.

Please reconsider contracting waste collection to private companies and make these jobs and services county efforts. Enhance composting and recycling, continue waste reduction, fund environmentally beneficial residential building/renovations.

Put limits on the number of garbage bags set out on the curb and removed the cost of bag tags.

Quit accepting lowest bid for contractor

Right now our waste management strategy does not align with our green agenda. We should be immediately implementing a green bin program with weekly collection. We should be collection recycling weekly and garbage bi weekly.

Should have a second large article pick-up.

Since the change from Emterra to the new contracted company has been a disgrace. The new company does not accept the range of materials that Emterra did and therefore leads to WAY too much now having to go to the landfill. This is NOT the direction that Oxford County claims to want to go, so why this new company was chosen makes zero sense. The return to Emterra is essential to constituents and council alike in my opinion.

Start recycling many more things or incinerating it like (Peel Region) and stop complaining about a dump

Tillsonburg and all municipalities in Oxford County should get a bulk pick up at least once a year or even two would be better. It could be based on a calling a number and the bulk pickup could be arranged.

We already pay a lot for waste management, the bag tags seem a bit like gouging. Also, we used to have a much better recycling programme in Ingersoll than we currently have. For example we used to be able to recycle styrofoam and plastic packaging. It was very disappointing to see this service decrease.

We need green bins.

Weekly recycling

Weekly recycling pick up in the City of Woodstock.

Wheel bins would be an excellent addition.

would like to see compostables recycling

We need big garbage options more than once a year!

We need a green bin program in this region

Improve the recycling. We should be able to recycle styrofoam, including trays, as well as all plastics.

I would like to see an electronic waste drop off and hazardous drop off somewhere in the vicinity of Drumbo. The last hazardous waste day was 3 or 4 years ago in Bright.

Salford is too far for all areas of the county. People just dump microwaves and tvs at the edge of ditches and fence corners. Large article pickup is too narrow in scope. Need once per year able to get rid of stuff curbside.

Would be nice to have 2 large item pickup dates per year.

Landfill is so far from us. We also should have the option of compost pickup in smaller neighborhoods. Compost waste in a small backyard is not appealing, smells, and attracts pests.

I would like to see the bigger wheeled/covered recycle bins come to Tavistock residents. Perth county uses these and I've heard positive feedback about it.

Compost services needed

We would like to be able to recycle our plastic bags again. It is very difficult and sickening to have to put them in the garbage after many years of being able to recycle them.

Increased options for recycling and diverting of waste. Encouraging individuals to divert personally with low cost, easy to use options. Monetary benefits for reducing waste.

I would be comfortable with higher taxes if the money were used to divert waste from landfills

Green recycling, please!

Current waste management is poorly handled and VERY unhappy with who the county had contacted out. Service is poor weekly, and recycling and trash collection is inconsistent with rules on tag.

It is important to improve efficiency and efficacy of recycling and waste management, and im willing to increase payments to allow for that.

I would like to see a waste management separate for all compost items.

Compost program

The County stopped to recycling of lose plastic such as shrink wrap, grocery bags. This makes up a good 5 to 10 percent of my household recycling and needs to be brought back. Green bins should be introduced for organic waste including food scraps.

I would like to see a better recycling program

Get a recycling contract where they pick up plastic bags and styrofoam like they used to. These current people don't do this so what's happening with these items? Going to a landfill? If so, not acceptable!

Large article pickup option should be available to residents of Tillsonburg, for those that don't have access to a truck to take themselves to the transfer depot or Salford

There should be a compost collection which would reduce the amount of garbage to be collected.

A green garbage program (ie. diverting household vegetable and garden waste from the landfill) could be instituted. We are newly arrived from Barrie, ON and were surprised to see no green garbage disposal in place. As it stands now, all the easily biodegradable garbage is lumped in with plastics and other waste that takes much longer to break down. Alternatively, an enhanced composter program should be started up; make it easier to get the composters. Education is the key to the success of either program.

we need to recycle much more.

We need green bin option and better recycling options - too much that cannot go into blue bins.

Tillsonburg should have large article pick-up since we have a large senior population with no way to get large items to depots

here in town is a joke with terrible hours for anything other than yard waste. In a town that thrives on attracting urban dwellers and seniors, you would think there would be large item pick up twice a year at the curb.....like most areas in the county. The people you are trying to attract don't have trucks and trailers after all.

Would love to see a green box program from September to May. I say not for June through August because the maggot situation is disgusting when you put your stuff in a green box during that time

Curbside compost diverted to a biodigester for an energy source would be fantastic for Oxford!

Invest in incineration

Our recycling program should be weekly not biweekly. I also think we should have an organics program

Weekly garbage and recycling pick up is needed. And get rid of garbage tags. It should be free at least 1 or 2 bags.

Keep these places operating.

Divert foodstuffs away from landfills.

I love the recycling & large item depot. I wish the old recycling depot was still available, especially if weekly recycling program can not be established. Sometimes the depot's hours are not practical & I need to empty my recycling bins more than every two weeks.

After living in Brampton for 3 years while attending college I find the waste management in Woodstock incredibly frustrating. Buying bag tags is a hassle and throwing away food waste saddens me, and makes the garbage smell. I rent so I can not use a backyard composter. We need better systems in place.

Green bin pickup?

Why are we still paying for garbage on top of our taxes? There could be a large improvement in recycling services including green garbage.

We pay\$ 2.50 per bag tag . Plus taxes for ware collection. Other towns and counties have more current updated service , don't have to go buy tags

Shouldn't have to pay for bag tags if we're paying all this tax money for waste collection. One or the other please.

A green bin program should be explored.

There is currently a number of plastic and styrofoam products that are not accepted in the blue bin and thus placed in black garbage bags destined for the landfill. These products were all accepted at the landfills in my previous jurisdiction of Niagara region. Our landfill needs to be updated to receive these extra products which are recyclable as indicated by the recycling logos on the products. We need to enhance the capabilities of the landfill facility to be able to accept these products to further divert these petroleum/plastic products from the landfill. Furthermore it is entirely unacceptable that the landfill was closed to the public for such a long duration of time during the covid shutdown. This only led to people littering their garbage on back roads and side roads.

I would be interested to see an enhanced recycling/composting program.

These garbage tags are a huge waste of stickers!! You need something better in place we need to have collecting every week and would be better if it wasn't a different day each week!

Just get rid of those bag tags, they are just a royal pain to have to deal with. The cost of picking up our garbage should be included in our property taxes. Also it would be nice if there were two large pickups each year; the second being in the fall.

I wanted to make several points about the County's Waste Management program, but unfortunately I have run out of time, and I believe it's better to submit what I have completed elsewhere in this survey before the deadline.

Large article has been reduced so drastically it needs to go back to where all non hazardous items were taken. Most residents don't have a means to go to the dump. A recycle depot is required so that residents don't have to wait inline at dump to drop of recyclables etc that is free. It's needs to be more accessible and better times for the average working resident.

We need to bring back plastic bags recycling pick up

Would like compost bins (green) added to curbside collection. Continue the good work of recycling and reducing garbage.

There seems to be a lot of complaints about current service. Why don't we have more extensive recycling programs? Why has recycling been reduced over the last few years?

Allow citizens to put out larger garbage once a year like other communities. Some older folk do not drive trucks and are unable to go to the dump.

recycling weekly, compost.

Which dog should offer green bin / food waste pickup service. It is updated to suggest people want to compost in their backyards

Find a new landfill before it's too late as the way the city is growing that timeframe could be 15-17 years

Maintained

Add more large article pick up days in the spring/summer.

Are we making money off of the recycling collection? What is the % of recycling that still goes to landfill?
Are we recycling the proper items?

Don't think we can afford to let this service get any worse than it already is. We have no large item pick up in the Town of Tillsonburg, which is ludicrous and a transfer station open once a week is NOT a solution.

Green bin program? would help reduce the cost spent on trash tags every week... An additional large trash day would be a nice bonus

Green bin should be added.

I do not think we should be paying for bag rags when we already have taxes going towards waste management. There should be a limit of 2 bags a week and then pay for extra bags thereafter.

I like my gargbage collection, more often recycling would be great. also promoting green ben to divert food waste.

I would like to see a compositing program be introduced to the county. Given the current environmental status of our world I think this initiative is very important. Also if we could focus on recycling/reducing packaging and general waste from our larger businesses that would also reduce our waste management responsibilities and encourage environmental focus

it's ok

James street is great addition to Salford. Also keeps recycling to biweekly savings from weekly pickup if you have too much to wait.

One would hope that senior staff are looking at methods for dealing with the safe disposal (incineration) of waste and keeping abreast of the technology advances.

Pleased to see the bag tag rate remain the same

Recycling pickup is a problem, in my area it is picked up in the late afternoon and by then everything has blown around the road.

There are no special events (hazardous waste days). Prefer user fee for services. Don't want to pay for the average household when I am a single person household.

I object to paying property taxes and then paying again for bag tags. As far as I notice each week recycling and general garbage is placed in the same part of the vehicle so what exactly is recycling!

Happy with our waste management services.

Bag tag is good. We are happy with collection. Not happy with the plastic situation (no longer to be put in recycle) When calling the Township Dept. because of missed pickups, I only expect a reasonable answer to why, we don't need to be accused of not getting our refuse out before 7am especially when an entire street is missed. This has happened several times. Don't appreciate that. We pay our taxes. We are not children.

I am concerned about the lifespan of the landfill. What is being done to address the need for a new landfill in the future?

Oxford County needs to find a source for better recycling of more types of plastic.

Awesome job...except for the plastic recycling.

I think that Oxford County has the best waste program in Ontario. Having to pay for garbage tags cuts down on how much people recycle because we know that every bag we put out costs \$2. The only thing that could be added is some kind of pickup for 'wet' waste like vegetable peels etc. We compost them, but people living in apartments are unable to do that.

I don't mind the cost of the garbage tags. this is better than raising taxes.

Allow more items to be dropped off at the Tillsonburg landfill instead of us having to drive to Salford. Seems a bit unfair that everyone outside of Tillsonburg can leave all their big items for pick up once or twice a year yet we can't.

I would love to see a large item curbside pick up (even 1x every 5 years). This might reduce dumping. Oxford County should return the hazard waste collection day so more waste goes where it should. Bag tags should only be required after the first free bag.

The 2 dollar per bag garbage collection is ridiculous.

the removal of the garbage bag tag would be excellent and limit the 3 of bags at curbside each week to maximum number. I understand that the revenue from the garbage bag tags sales would be lost in the operating budget.

People should be recycling more.

Curbside compost collection would be great.

At least maintained but enhanced where possible.

Increase taxes and remove the garbage tags and tipping fees.

Always satisfied with service - landfills and transfer stations are well run.

Reduce/remove cost of garbage bag tags

The waste management company that is currently in use is highly irresponsible. They drive with the hatches of their trucks open and I have watched numerous times garbage flying out of their trucks as they are driving down the road

Would not necessarily be happy to see this enhanced if I am already paying for bag tags.

Improve items collected for recycling. It was extremely disappointing to have a reduction in items allowed in collecting. If people don't recycle properly, they should be left uncollected with a note stating they need to recycle according to collections

Weekly curbside recycle would encourage more people to recycle instead of ridding of it in the trash for weekly pick up. Surrounding communities have weekly recycling, so not sure why Woodstock remains bi-weekly.

Not sure/need to know more before deciding

does not apply to me I reside in a residential apartment complex building

If investment was made on enhance composting and waste diversion then yes, increase. But without understanding the direction. Status quo.

not applicable as I am a City of Woodstock resident

We pay tax and fee per bag which was more than doubled in price for this.

Reduced

Already pay for garbage twice with garbage tages

And yet again. With the price of housing jumped up so high, and the lack of work for many I personally can NOT afford more money to be spent on this.

at 2 bucks a bag plus taxes

I have a dumpster so I don't ever use any of it.

I pay for garbage tags, one or the other...

I shouldn't be paying taxes for this and paying for expensive bag tags. Pick one.

We have an astronomical amount of money in reserves from the sales of \$2 garbage bag tags. We should not be paying in addition to this service.

We pay for tags why are we paying in taxes as well. London has unlimited pickup as well as furniture and large items without 2dollar tags

why are you picking waste up weekly. Go back to every 2 weeks and try to save some money. We're on a township boundary road and see the waste truck go up twice a week.

Why paying bag tags on top of this

Why do we pay for bag tags and also pay taxes, make it one or the other.

I transport my own garbage to the dump site

ELIMINATE THE BAG TAGS! Even if you increased this by \$100 per year, it would save people from having to go buy tags and would be an eco friendly option.

We already have to pay by the bag - most places with a tag system gives residents multiple free tags for the year (roughly one per week). WE ARE PAYING TWICE. Once with taxes and once with tags. The new recycling company you switched to in 2020 is a joke. Rude crews. Showing up whenever... if they show up on garbage day at all. The last company took more I. This one is super picky. It's a joke.

This is the worst run program I have interactions with. The waste management individuals will reject cardboard, and plastics marked as recyclable for incomprehensible reasons. We are lacking a green-bin program which would be great.

To charge twice for waste removal kinda sucks (tax and bag tags)

Since we pay weekly fees for this service, our taxes shouldn't be this high especially when we don't have green waste pick up!!

We pay for garbage tags.

Service has declined dramatically but tax and spend with garbage tags should be eliminated. Most of that garbage is floating around the county as so much more dumping is occurring. Need to allow one bag per household so people don't dump.

We pay \$2.50 a bag and have to take our junk to the depot in Tillsonburg, in Ingersoll & Woodstock junk is picked up curb side. This always ticked me off

It would be nice if there was a compost initiative. This would reduce the amount of waste headed to the landfill.

We would probably save a lot on garbage expenses if we privatized the collection of garbage. Also we pay higher than average taxes I know a lot of people don't like buying garbage tags on top of it. That's a common complaint from newcomers to the city. That and not having green bins.

County Question 3: Human Services – Child Care and Early Years

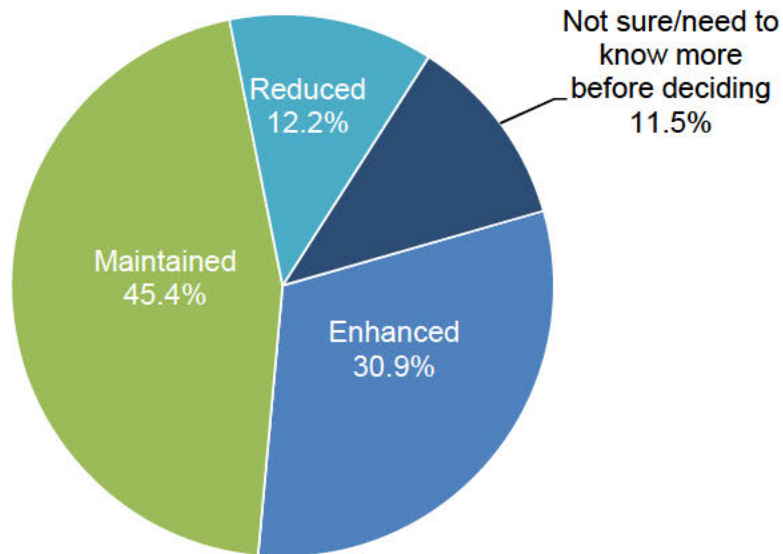
2021 taxes for a \$250,000 residential property would be \$15

Quick facts

- Child care and early years plans and manages quality child care (through external partners), provides child care fee subsidy for qualifying families and delivers early years programming for families with children aged 0-6 years throughout the County.

Should this investment be:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enhanced	30.9%	159
Maintained	45.4%	234
Reduced	12.2%	63
Not sure/need to know more before deciding	11.5%	59
<i>answered question</i>		515
<i>skipped question</i>		81



County Question 3: Human Services – Child Care and Early Years

Comments

Enhanced

Accessible and affordable child care is incredibly important to ensuring an active and thriving economy. Women who bear the brunt of the majority of the child care need easy child care so they can do the work they want to do.

Child care costs should be made more affordable.

Childcare is extremely hard to find, I had to go out of county to find available childcare for my two children.

Every dollar we invest in our children has a 7 dollar later economic return. We need to invest more in our children which are our future.

Getting a child into daycare is highly competitive and very expensive, anything that can be done to improve availability and affordability will be beneficial - especially as many young couples/families are forced out of KW/Cambridge/Guelph due to the housing/rent prices.

Investment in next gen. is critical. Early year programs and development programs are important to all children, families and our community.

It seems that young families cannot find child care so this may need to be increased.

Lol there is like no childcare in town...what are we paying for

Make it affordable for low income people with families to be able to work

More and better distributed child care would reduce burden on families. Fund/subsidize spaces. Provide transportation to and from child care and increase spaces in smaller communities and in rural areas. Increase partnerships with libraries and local schools.

More child care is needed.

More options for rural child care...Plattsville/Drumbo/Princeton

So we are paying \$44 for garbage and \$15 for childcare? Really?

Tavistock needs more daycares.

The Early Years program needs improvement. It wasn't supportive when I took my young children there. The leaders didn't speak to me, and I was there on my own with a baby. I took my kids to meet up with parents / children I already knew, not to make new friends. People kept to themselves.

The most important investment we can make is quality child care that is readily available for families who need it.

there appears to be limited spots available

These programs are absolutely vital to the well being of our society and need to be at the forefront of all social and economic conversations.

This is an area that should see a huge increase. Gender equality is already poor in Oxford County and the pandemic has made it considerably worse. Offering affordable quality child care is a must! Decisions around this should not be made by a table full of men. Please include families and single parents, especially mothers who bear the brunt of child and elder care. COVID was immensely hard for families and especially women.

Very difficult to get childcare services in this community

It is so hard to find childcare in a growing community. If it weren't for my mom working remotely, I would have had to quit my job to care for my son.

Lacking but it's getting better thanks to other community minded businesses and charity spaces.

More affordable childcare in the Brownsville/ Tillsonburg area is needed.

Thamesford's increase in population will require additional funds for the early years programming which my grandchildren benefited from.

So many Ingersoll families are struggling to find child care. I personally have to drive to Woodstock to have childcare for my 2 year old. I have been on multiple lists in Ingersoll...

We need more daycares and better rates. It would help boom our economy.

The Early On program has SUCKED during the pandemic.

There is never enough high quality child care/child welfare services. Perhaps if we invested more in these areas for children, we would have to invest in fewer other services (eg. police, health, etc.)

Child care in Tillsonburg is less than perfect. For the amount of young families that live her, there are three to choose from. If you live here and have a job, a six month waiting list at these facilities is entirely unacceptable.

There is not enough affordable child care in Woodstock nor Oxford County

We need more facilities. The wait lists are insanely long and it's near impossible to get registered child care

Investments in children & young families is important to a vital community.

There is a severe lack of quality child care availability, as well as no assistance/astronomical care prices for middle class families.

Yes!! Wholeheartedly yes!! Women need these services to be able to participate in the workforce. It's good for everyone.

It would be great to get more child care services/resources as many families probably work outside of the Blandford Blehiem area and would benefit greatly from trusted services from the government.

The cost of childcare is a big issue and although I would not qualify for a subsidy, I would support an increase if it would benefit other members of the community.

Still on the wait list and getting worried I won't find childcare in time. Also childcare workers are severely underpaid.

We did not have licensed childcare in Norwich Township until last year! I'm not certain what other townships have, but it is unlikely that Blandford-Blenheim has access to licensed childcare and others townships in Oxford. We cannot be productive, contributing members of society when we do not have access to safe and affordable childcare. More money needs to be invested in this sector.

Better and affordable child care for family with low income

Although I do not/may never have children, I would really like to see the County take a strong stance and be an area leader on bringing AFFORDABLE and ACCESSIBLE child care to Oxford County residents (despite any provincial/federal initiatives). I feel there are some real economic benefits to having a strong child care system.

There is not enough child care available in Tillsonburg for the amount of children. I recently had my second child, and it is a struggle to find child care in this community.

Create more energy and excitement in the caregivers. They seem to display a lot of boredom. Right people for the job.

Early Childhood is SO important! Quality Child programs are SO important! I want to put money into our future through our community's children.

Investing in children means parents can work and contribute to the economy and that's the short term, in the long term it leads to less crime and better academic outcomes. There are so many benefits to funding child care and children's programming, I can't list them all.

It's time to take in consideration the age of 6-12 especially with online learning.

Wait lists are long which means there is a shortage of licensed child care. Woodstock has grown & child care has not. It took 3 years to expand Algonquin child care centre (Covid didn't help).

Maintained

Please be more strict with these child care fee subsidies. Families abuse these services and many "cheat" the system to qualify.

Pleased that early ont services continued virtually.

No issues

Again, nothing accessible to the rural areas.

Programming is excellent at present and should not be changed.

Currently my community doesn't have any services that I am aware of.

my 4 children attended early years programming and it was very good

Not sure/need to know more before deciding

does not apply to me I have no children

Increase openings at Good Beginnings. Decrease spots in the community in private homes.

Not applicable to myself.

While child care subsidies are essential in some family situations we need to ensure these programs are funding those who need the funding sufficiently and not subsidizing costs for those who don't/shouldn't need it.

Do not and will not have kids.

Isn't this going to be taken care of by the federal government? so why would we be contributing?

Reduced

almost no services offered in Plattsville. The child care was expensive and horribly ran, was so glad when my kids where old enough to not need it

And yet again. With the price of housing jumped up so high, and the lack of work for many I personally can NOT afford more money to be spent on this.

Have never used needed nor will I ever need to use it. This should be collected thru personal taxes

Human Services is way too high of staffing. Why are there so many managers in Human Services and Housing, child care? Provincial offices have 1 manager per site yet Oxford County have 10x the managers! need to cut staffing and put savings into services provide Provincial ODSP office caseworkers have over 350 clients per worker yet Oxford County Human services have less than 100 per worker. The province did a review of value for service and county was horrible vs the province for costs for programs. County needs to look at revising as such waste of funding that is likely majority staff costs

I think people should only have the children they can afford to take care of. It should not be the job of others to raise and take care of your children.

People with children have enough services given to them by higher governments.

privatize

Should be paid by user. Single income household with no children should be held accountable for childcare.

Should not spend tax dollars on childcare that should be the responsibility of the family directly

Taxes should be reduced.

The federal government is taking care of child care spend the money elsewhere

No kids, make those who have them pay!

I feel like subsidies should be given by the provincial or federal government for this type of service. There are too many handouts, lots of jobs, but no one wants to work.

Less government involvement with our kids.

The middle class doesn't get any help for child care- yet we still live pay to pay trying to cover all our bills. Super unfair standards for subsidies. We get nothing from the federal or provincial government either.

Why we paying them if we don't use them. This is absurd. Should be \$0

I dont agree with property tax dollars going to subsidized childcare. The provincial and federal government already does this.

I may be misunderstanding this program, isn't this subsidy being given to qualifying families?

County Question 4: Human Services – Housing

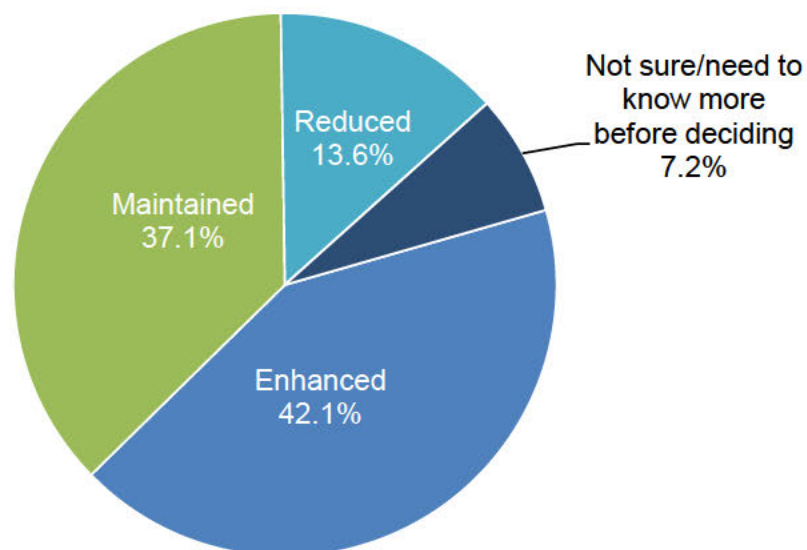
2021 taxes for a \$250,000 residential property would be \$73

Quick facts

- Housing offers programs to help people who don't have suitable housing, which is about 1 in 14 families in Oxford.
- In 2020, the housing program funded 628 Oxford County-owned public housing units, 656 not-for profit housing units, and 152 affordable housing units with 24 units constructed in 2020 alone.
- In 2020, 125 rent supplements were provided. This program is to bridge the gap between the actual rent and rent affordable by the family/individual.
- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) is a 100 per cent provincially funded outcomes-based program that aims to prevent and end homelessness by improving access to adequate, suitable, and affordable housing and homelessness services for people experiencing homelessness and for people at-risk of homelessness.
- This program has assisted between 800 to 1000 people per year and has assisted with last month's rent, prevention of evictions, prevention of utility disconnections, funding to the emergency housing at The Inn, Salvation Army Emergency House as well as many motels and hotel stays as necessary. It also supports the Housing with Related Supports program and other agencies involved with housing throughout Oxford County.

Should this investment be:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enhanced	42.1%	217
Maintained	37.1%	191
Reduced	13.6%	70
Not sure/need to know more before deciding	7.2%	37
<i>answered question</i>		515
<i>skipped question</i>		81



County Question 4: Human Services – Housing

Comments

Enhanced

Affordable and safe housing is a huge problem within in Ontario and strong focus on these services is essential.

Affordable house / geared to income housing all should be enhanced greatly. We as a rich nation should have no homeless or proverty. There should be no 5 to 10 waits for housing. If we are being taxed an average of \$73 then lets double it in one year and then increase by inflation every year there after.

Affordable housing is getting unreachable for those who even hold full time employment.

Affordable housing is incredibly important, especially in this time of inflated housing prices. In addition to supporting house, families should be provided with additional services if needed.

Affordable housing is needed Granny flats and small houses should be allowed to make an affordable house option on a property with a single family dwelling

based on recent articles I have read there is an increasing amount of homelessness in the city. Determining why and how to assist will be key.

Definitely has been a concern past, present and for the future.

First (not the only) step in addressing poverty

Homelessness is on the rise in Oxford county due to wage stagnation, drug addiction, and housing market boom. We can't let our citizens freeze to death in the cold, we need to ensure every citizen has a home.

House everyone. Stop partnering with the Salvation Army (homophobic and transphobic) and promote service equity. More people would and could be housed if we gave them money, so increase income supports and declare a local minimum liveable wage.

Housing in general gets expensive, people need to be able to have a stable home environment.

Hugely enhanced is what we need. Stop wasting money hey on talking about these issues and get the feet on the ground.

I feel like this is a very good & important aspect piece

I would like to see a model of mixed housing as opposed to groupings of low income housing. ie. topping up the difference in rent in existing buildings for low income earners instead of using that money to build and maintain low income rental housing As affordable housing is a real need, what about creating a percentage of new buildings as affordable rental units. Also, a percentage of low income housing needs to include accessibility for people with physical disabilities

It is important to assess the root cause and invest in those prevention measures to stop the cycle of dependency.

Lets do better here.

Limit the number of years people can be in rent subsidy units to make more fair to those who struggle Stop giving funding to those who abuse the program and they don't pay rent, hydro when they are issued money from county or province social assistance. Discretionary money should not be issued when people chose to not pay rent and stiff landlords. Make it a loan and enforce repayment as too easy to obtain money from program and repeat offenders The Inn has been eyesore for the city, crime goes on around it, open drug use and no rules enforced by those who run it. Needs to be run better and make safer for those who need it as scared and stay on street as don't feel safe

More entry-level affordable housing is needed so the County can write fewer cheques to the hotels / motels where many of them live.

More housing is desperately needed everywhere in the county

More neighborhood should qualify to convert their homes into duplexes

Need more housing options to help homeless issues

No affordable housing around

Tent cities are forming so clearly there is not enough affordable housing

The homelessness in Woodstock is out of control. Also, as a blue collar town, the housing market is out of control. A single parent has NO WAY of ever being able to afford their own home when a 2 income family can't even buy a tiny starter home for under 250K.

This is a necessary step to deal with the homelessness, crime, and social problem issues affecting downtown Woodstock and the surrounding areas.

This needs to be the #1 priority for the County, all of the municipalities and the community.

this question is hilarious. there are no \$250k residential properties in woodstock. as someone who tried to buy a home this year then ended up renting, housing is a real issue. not just for those on disability, single parent homes, etc... but also for people making 100k a year. finding a place to live here is a horrible experience.

We need affordable housing and more assistance for homeless. Seems we are more concerned about luxuries for those that are well off than help for those who have nothing.

We need more affordable housing integrated into all of our communities.

We need non profit housing

We need to ensure that everyone in Oxford has access to housing. This needs to be achieved with enhanced funding and programs along with weeding out the abuse of the programs that we all know is a big issue.

When does police funding take priority over housing?! This makes me sick. Provincially we are in a housing crisis. There is no affordable housing available for (last time I checked) 7 years for applicants! People deserve to live in dignity, in adequate, safe and affordable housing. It is a human right, and we are not meeting the minimum housing requirements in Oxford.

Need more affordable housing options that provide a better quality of life for children ie. green space surrounding the home for children to play.

Our town can only support so many of these families that have nowhere to go but out of Norwich and they don't want to. Their kids want to stay with their school and friends. Norwich needs more affordable rentals for individuals such as seniors on a pension or some benefit, young people and families. Too many large homes are being built and not enough builders to care about this absolute need.

to provide a place for the homeless in Woodstock, supervised and managed properly. With a pre requisite to also be in a drug management program if there are addictions/ substances concern.

There has been a visible increase in homelessness. i think more resources need to go into addressing this, even if it means cutting back on things like road maintenance, etc.

It's only going to become more of a problem with the ridiculous housing prices.

We own our home, but the younger generation cannot afford to buy a home anymore. It would be nice to see more inexpensive rentals of townhouses and apartments for these people.

Need to increase more affordable housing in Ingersoll.

increase it but with the objective that its temporary and the tenants maintain their place, are actively looking for work and getting any needed education/training.

Too many people are paying over 30 percent for rentals. We need affordable, sustainable housing that helps the greatest amount of people possible. The waiting list for housing should not be 10 years! People shouldn't have to choose between eating and paying for the roof over their heads. Housing is a basic human right in Canada and not enough investment has been made by local governments to house impoverished people.

Housing/renting costs have skyrocketed and landlords are evicting current tenants so they can increase the rent for new tenants. All the fancy new apt. blogs in Tillsonburg are unaffordable for many.

People making well above minimum wage, cannot afford a modest, safe apartments in Tillsonburg. This is ridiculous. More lip service is paid to affordable housing for seniors, but nothing for the young generations. And by Young I mean people in their 30s or 40s. Instead. People in the 30s and 40s are forced to live with the aging parents. Take on roommates. Or live in places that are not safe (even those are difficult to afford). Governments worry about seniors and housing those on welfare and other assistance. Well, you are losing the younger generations as they move away not by choice but for a chance to live! Get with it!

For those that truly need it, who are qualified (and not just freeloading) there should be an effort to provide more subsidized housing and reduce the wait list times.

we need more.

For now enhanced until the new modular units get tried to see if the service satisfies the individual

No available housing in our communities.

There is far too much homelessness in the area and the drastically rising housing costs are a huge part of the problem

There needs to be an aggressive program formed ASAP to house homeless individuals, drawn from other similar communities' best practices. There are too many sleeping rough and in building foyers, causing risks to others.

Those utilizing these services should be subject to drug testing. Many of them refuse to try to change because they can keep doing and dealing drugs out of subsidised housing.

At least maintained. With market rents so high and rental properties being sold in this high residential market, more people will need help.

Again, although I would not qualify, I would support an increase to housing as this is another serious issue that impacts a large portion of the community.

Given the affordability issue I would like to see more small houses/townhouses/apartments built that have a lower price point for starter homes, as well as microhousing units to address the needs of those struggling to find/afford housing.

our community more and more I've seen other law-enforcement dropping people off with their bags on the sidewalk of downtown! Southwest Oxford and Woodstock are not a dumping ground and this needs to stop! Also I've heard people walking away from their housing because of the amount of rent. Can't work for minimum wage and have \$1400 rent! It just doesn't work.

Make housing more affordable. It's almost impossible for families to get decent housing that is affordable.

There is a lack of affordable housing in Oxford County.

Housing is a big issue as the County is growing, Canada as a whole is seeing issues with affordable housing. Another chance for Oxford County to be a leader in the space (although understanding that it is an uphill/systemic issue that is potentially much bigger than Oxford County).

I think looking at our downtown says enough, we need to do more for our homeless populations. They sometimes need support with addictions and mental health. Having a safe place to live is a basic human need, I hope we can help those who are struggling.

To support more affordable housing, the city of Woodstock has to stop declining those who go through the proper process of obtaining permits to transform their homes into legal duplexes and second dwellings

If there is still a waitlist for housing and people who are houseable without homes we haven't been doing enough.

Support for the middle class! Those who are working full time and struggling to pay the expensive rent pricing and can't qualify for help.

Stop giving permit for affordable' apartments that turn around and charge \$1600 for a one bedroom! That is not affordable!

Maintained

Ensure that there is not overlap or duplication of services between all the agencies providing assistance. Both within Woodstock, Oxford County and perhaps other cities or townships.

Focus on downtown redevelopment

I don't think throwing money at homeless people makes any difference. Treat the reasons they are out there first and help them earn a roof over their heads.

Improvements are required. Need for non smoking accessible housing that is affordable and sustainable especially in regards to utilities

Is there a large gap in services provided and people needing them? If yes, would support enhancing.

It definitely needs to be maintained. As the cost of housing continues to rise, this will be a very important aspect of the budget. It may need to increase, however it's hard to tell the impact of COVID and whether a "return to normal" will help stabilize things.

People who are helped financially should be obligated to give some time back to the community .

persons in affordable housing should have there income examined annually to determine if they still meet the requirements and if not they should be given a timeline to move if there income exceeds the requirement for geared to income housing.

This should not be increased.

Great service I hope I will never have to use

Housing homeless is one thing, but they need to be working to contribute to society

There should be mandatory spot checks for subsidized housing. There are too many people abusing the system. Many of who are either working and putting their money into drugs and alcohol, or able to work but are simply too lazy to get a job. As an employer, there are many people that don't show up for interviews, as checking the boxes on social services requirements and too easy.

all income received by a household should br accounted for such as government payments as GST, Child tax Credit etc.

Unfortunately with the rising cost of properties it will have to be enhanced as more families cannot afford the rising rents and home prices

Wouldn't need this help if something was done to bring the cost of real estate down to make home ownership more affordable

This sounds like an excellent set of programs and, at the very least, the investment in them should be maintained (and probably should be strengthened). Everybody deserves a decent home where they can live safely, affordably and with dignity. This is not just a need; it should be a basic human right.

Not sure/need to know more before deciding

But concerned of who receives the assistance sometimes

It seems there is a homelessness problem in Woodstock that needs to be dealt with. If housing affordability is the issue then funding should be increased. What the root cause of the issue actually is would need to be identified.

Providing where not taking other town, cities homeless people. We have enough of our own to help

The removal of homeless meth and crackheads from the city entirely

No idea how many people are homeless in Oxford or how long the wait list is to get subsidized unit. No idea how much the assist is or what is the difference between "public" and "not for profit" and "affordable" housing.

It appears the homeless choose not to take part in community help

Reduced

And yet again. With the price of housing jumped up so high, and the lack of work for many I personally can NOT afford more money to be spent on this.

Housing is unsustainable for everyone at this point. It's becoming more liveable not to work and live in these units.

Maybe invest more in helping those who can get a job/police those who are just using the system. I know too many who take advantage of these programs while doing nothing for them selves. Except Seniors, they need this

More money won't allow those requiring it to seek it. This is not a budget issue, this is a sociological issue with mental health concerns.

near do wellers need to get a job and stop sponging off the system.

Should develop partnership with developers to help build more houses but this can be done with no tax dollars

Single income household should not be held accountable. Cost of rentals should be reduced and controlled as per income of those who require services. People who require these services need to be held accountable. Managed to take care of myself and pay my own way despite any issues I may have had.

Have those not working do voluntary work to earn their rent supplements and reduce the number of full time staff needed in those areas

Providing housing for many individuals in these situations is a bandaid solution only and does not address the actual problem. It increases the likelihood of larger catastrophes due to the maintenance of their living conditions with increases in fire hazards and health and safety concerns.

does providing these temporary shelters actually attract people who need them??

Not my problem. I should not be paying for the lazy class to occupy chairs all day.

We should not be forced to pay for others when alot of us have a hard time paying tax rates as it is.

While this is helpful for some, I do not agree to any increases.

County Question 5: Woodingford Lodge – Long term Care in Woodstock, Ingersoll and Tillsonburg

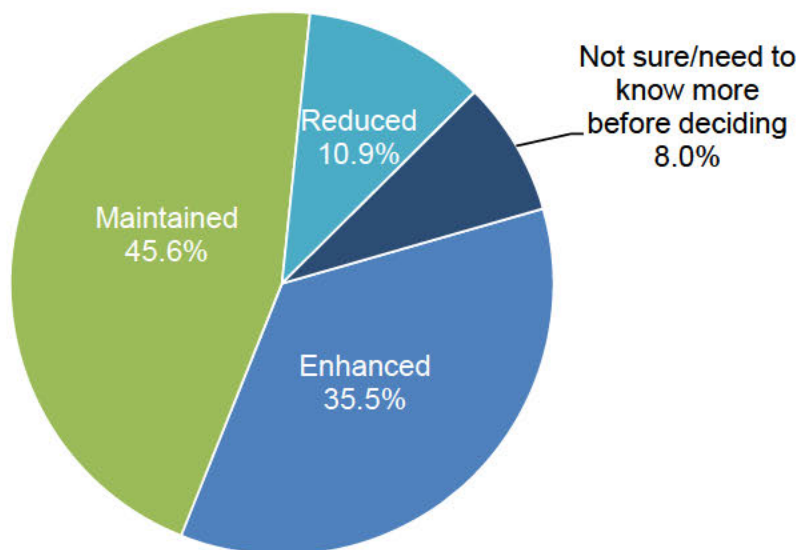
2021 taxes for a \$250,000 residential property would be **\$163**

Quick facts

- Woodingford Lodge is an Oxford County owned and operated, long term care facility providing personal and health care services to our residents. Ontario's upper tier municipalities are required to operate at least one LTC home according to the Long Term Care Home Act, 2007, with the number of beds approved by the province.
- Woodingford Lodge is a municipally funded LTC home receiving 37% of its funding from Oxford County property taxes, 43% from the Province and 20% from LTC residents.
- Woodingford Lodge provides a person-centred, resident-first model of care to 160 residents in Woodstock, 34 residents in Ingersoll and 34 residents in Tillsonburg. There are approximately 600 people on the waiting list for one of the three Woodingford Lodge homes.

Should this investment be:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enhanced	35.5%	183
Maintained	45.6%	235
Reduced	10.9%	56
Not sure/need to know more before deciding	8.0%	41
<i>answered question</i>		515
<i>skipped question</i>		81



County Question 5: Woodingford Lodge – Long term Care in Woodstock, Ingersoll and Tillsonburg

Comments

Enhanced

As we have seen with the Covid pandemic LTC need higher paid supports staff (especially PSWs) with a healthy care based approach. The majority of us are going to end up in a LTC home so let's make it something we can be proud of going to.

Better care; better pay for PSW workers.

COVID-19 has brought to light the failures of these LTC homes

Especially in light of this Pandemic, it's well known our LTC facilities are requiring an overhaul.

Given the past 18 months, it has been very clear that only municipally funded LTC homes provided adequate supports and services to keep residents safe and well provided for. There is a crisis with limited quality beds available in modern facilities that meet current standards. Our community requires more investments in this area.

If COVID showed us anything it's that LTC homes need additional funding for staffing, PPE when needed, climate control (air conditioning) etc.

If there is a 600 person long wait list for 228 spots this seems like an issue. Maybe we need to increase funding to create more beds. If the wait list wasn't so long to begin with people might not go on it as quick. Right now people go on before they need it knowing that by the time they get to the top they likely will need it.

Kudos to staff at all locations for a stellar COVID response. Pay them all more and make their job full time, with benefits.

More beds needed!

Moving forward, there is only going to be more demand with baby boomers requiring more care.

Need to ensure we are planning for future needs - in advance of needing them.

New builds within communities with focus on keeping people closer to their families/caregivers. Hiring staff at living wage.

no brainer - COVID proved this

No-one hopes to end up here - but this level of care is needed and will continue to be needed. After the shameful way our governments allowed the genocide by neglect of the elderly and those in long term care these past two years - much change is needed.

Our elders deserve more from us

seems very disorganized, managers often not available and front line staff over worked.

Seniors were instrumental in our quality of life, we should improve theirs.

There is not enough LTC spaces for those that need it. LTC is for the disabled, it should not be where we shuffle our seniors at the end of their days with us. More money needs to be invested in care homes for seniors. The pandemic has shed light on the deplorable conditions in LTC homes,.

They are the important ones

Waiting list is far too long.

We need more long term care homes. The current wait time is 7 or 8 years. With baby boomers approaching the age they will need nursing homes, the current beds available are woefully insufficient.

We need to take care of our elderly.

Without raising taxes.

With 600 on wait list I am feeling obligated to say enhanced. LTC is a mess everywhere. Change has to happen as I will need it soon ;-)

Grateful that we have long term care facilities and even more grateful for the caregivers. We need more of both in this town and in this Township. Sad that seniors have to leave Norwich to go to these places mostly because they can't find affordable, more suitable space to live in.

The waiting list should be all you need to see that we have a significant need in our community. Perhaps we need to think of alternatives to Woodingford. Perhaps thinking about expanding current buildings or building more in the smaller communities. Norwich is soon to see a spike of the elderly population with Multiple retirement homes and a proposed large scale apartment building.

The Aging population requires safe housing and care. Programs to assist the elderly to stay in their homes as long as possible.

These facilities are fabulous at taking care of their residence. Highly recommend them.

We've neglected these folks far too long. NO LONG TERM CARE HOME SHOULD BE PRIVATELY OWNED as there is no way to ensure quality of care and life. I guess that's what happens when you cut back all the inspectors.

Need additional long term care facilities in Ingersoll.

too many are residing in the hospitals waiting for a bed to open up.

Current long term care facilities have long wait lists. The population is aging and all levels of government are failing miserably to meet the demand now and in the future. "Geared to Income" long term care is desperately needed by those who cannot afford places like Harvest

This too needs to be enhanced, to reduce the wait lists...guessing that many seniors die before their turn comes up, that needs to be changed.

The fact that the waiting list is almost 4 times the capacity of the LTC in this area is telling.

To improve care and have full time staff.

Waitlists are too long. LTC residents should pay more.

If there are 600 people waiting and a continually aging population that is living longer and longer, then maybe another home needs to be made

More housing should be available In Oxford to keep the elderly closer

There are currently 3 PSW's in each home area on any given shift, to enhance safety for both residents and staff there should be 4 PSW's on each home area for a buddy system. I believe this would greatly reduce the risk of falls and injuries to the residents and increase the quality of care they receive

The aging population will need more assisted living. Programs that keep them in their homes with added mobile nurses to assist them with daily activities such as medications, bathing. Not the care that CCAC provides which is too administrative heavy and light on nurses. The structure is all wrong. There needs to be more on the road, less in the office answering phones.

There should be a review of policies, practices, facilities, and staffing and training in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and issues that have inexcusably arisen in other LTC facilities to ensure that residents receive the best quality of life.

We've all heard about long term care conditions on the news throughout this pandemic. Let's make sure our seniors are treated better than those places!

More home health care & PSW's are needed for out of Woodstock area to assist seniors in rural areas to be able to stay at home.

Definitely need to put more into LTC - I've gone through a horrific experience with my father over the past few years and it was very disheartening to see how we treat our elderly. My father passed this winter and I hope others won't go through what he and my family did.

Build another home in Tavistock. We lost Bonnie Brea. Buy out the private ones and get rid of for profit corporations. They are low level and don't compare to Woodingford. The pandemic proved that!

We would like to see some appropriate seniors housing options for our aging parents, something that starts out as an apartment and can transition into assisted living and eventually nursing care at an affordable cost. This is precisely what my parents are looking for and the options for them are very slim to non-existent in this area. 10-year waiting lists are unacceptable.

Recently having a family member in Woodingford Lodge, I am grateful for the care but have witnessed that education and staffing needs to be enhanced and improved.

600 people on the waiting list seems like a lot, so something needs to be done differently here. Do the LTC residents pay based on ability or is it a flat rate of 20%? My thought is the payment should be geared to ability to pay based on assets and income of the resident. Is there a plan to expand and add more beds?

Looking back at the Woodstock location, there were some terrible decisions made during its construction which resulted in major cost overruns. Let's be sure to not let anything like this happen again in order that the money may go to where it will do the most good.

600 people are waiting to get into one of the Woodingford Lodge facilities? 600? Are you kidding me? Where are all of these people -- most of whom I presume are elderly -- living in the meantime? Who is caring for them? The system seems to be seriously lacking if that many folks are relegated to a waiting list. To the extent that it can, the County needs to pressure or lobby the Province of Ontario to provide funding for more beds.

We need more LTC with the increase of senior citizen

The wait list for LTC is too high and with the aging population will only get higher.

our population is aging, will require more beds

I feel our LTCs are well run and respected institutions as they sit today. Despite this, there is a distinct lack of LTC beds, and although well run, there are continually people unable to access LTC beds in the place where they live.

Allow indoor visits now, without the mask.

The staff, esp the nursing staff who have worked this pandemic deserve so much more than they receive in payment. The residents have been put through the ringer this year. I would be on board with enhanced spending in this area.

Increased staffing is needed for proper care of residents

Not just nursing home care. In between care. Independent to nursing home

In all levels of LTC, elimination of Private care run facilities in all provinces is a must, everyone is aware what damages were done to so many of our residents during Covid 19. A dreadful shame all over our country Seniors and younger became residents of LTC, and a wait list of 600 is putting a tremendous strain on all other services that provide home care, that number will increase in our county sooner than later, It's bad enough that a lifelong resident ends up miles away in another county due to bed shortages away from their families and possibly a spouse who does not drive, and the family still work full time making a regular visit impossible except for a brief visit on a Sat. /Sun. It's like a lottery the worse your health condition may be a benefit to getting up on the list quicker

Our seniors deserve more, hasn't this pandemic shown and proven how much we are failing them allâ€¦.

The measure of a civilized society is based on how well it takes care of its most vulnerable people. Woodingford Lodge has a wonderful reputation in the community, but there are also so many individuals on waitlists to get into LTC home who aren't living in the conditions or with the support they need.

The need for PSW's is growing yet the amount of full time positions are limited.

It seems the need for long term care home is massively needed. There must be more provincial or federal funding to increase the beds at this time. Let's do better post Covid. Lets start a civic, city, county, provincial, federal initiative to build 3 new long term care homes. We did it for the new hospital we can do this to. I have heard nothing but good things about Woodingford lodge. The staff the protocols for Covid fantastic.

Maintained

Already quality care. No need that I can see for enhancement but then I'm not privy to whether space is a premium or not.

Glad to have local services like woodingford staying local, rather than transporting beds to larger areas. it is an expensive option though.

Improvements in long term care is long overdue

Keeping retirement home beds local should be priority. Communities like Tavistock, Norwich, Thamesford should be included with their own.

Lower tax burden and increase LTC residents fees.

LTC fees should be increased to 25%.

Supports to keep the elderly in their home longer

This should be enhanced by the provincial and federal governments.

Ensuing excellent care for our elder residents

Woodingford lodges, all three of them are excellent facilities we should be proud of.

So many older people and families can not take care of the aging family members. The care is hard to do as both adults have to work and the aging need physical support not just financing.

There should be a focus on making Woodstock/Oxford an age friendly community where residents can stay in their own homes or senior suitable apartments for as long as possible with appropriate supports/enrichment.

More staff needed for aging population

Not sure/need to know more before deciding

On the surface I feel like a greater portion of the funding of Woodingford should be coming from residents that can afford to pay. Maybe a structure of 43% from province 29% Oxford 29% residents would be a good place to start. Obviously much like regular affordable housing we need to make sure all seniors have access to a safe place to live with the care they need.

Quality of care in Long Term Care has long been a problem. Problems only seem to become front of mind since Covid and number of deaths. Improvements need to be made which likely requires more funding. Government needs to be held accountable and fighting over funding and rules between federal, provincial, municipal needs to be corrected.

Reduced

Increase the funding from residents who can afford to pay higher rate than 20%. Look at higher fee for those who are wealthy and can pay more towards their care. It would help all the residents by increasing the fee for those who have high assets going into these homes

It seems like a very expensive program with out a lot of return.

Privately held if it is public now.

privatise

Residents should pay more.. no wonder large waiting list if residents only pay 20% of cost. When high tax support, naturally the unions move in and demand more money.

The province needs to pay more!

The satelite sites in Tillsonburg and Ingersoll have been a money pit since day one. They are incredibly expensive to run and should not continue to be greatly subsidized by the taxpayers of Oxford Counth any more. The beds need to be moved to the Woodstock site, or sold. I am also curious to see how the 37% funding number compares with other municipal homes in Ontario.

This is far too expensive considering how few of residents are served in these locations.

This should not be run by the county and should be a non profit, seems like so few people will benefit or can benefit

LTC needs to be paid for by the resident

Responsibility to not run a deficit

This is a lot of money to spend for 226 people (not even guaranteed to be Oxford County residents). I believe the province needs to step up, however if not for profit homes can do with less why can't Oxford County. Governance should be handed over to

The amount LTC charge vs. The care they provide? They should receive no funding.

Get rid

Why isn't the cost of this handled by OHIP, or paid for by those who reside there? Based on the description above, why do Zorra residents contribute when we will never be able to reside there?

decrease

County Question 6: Paramedic Services

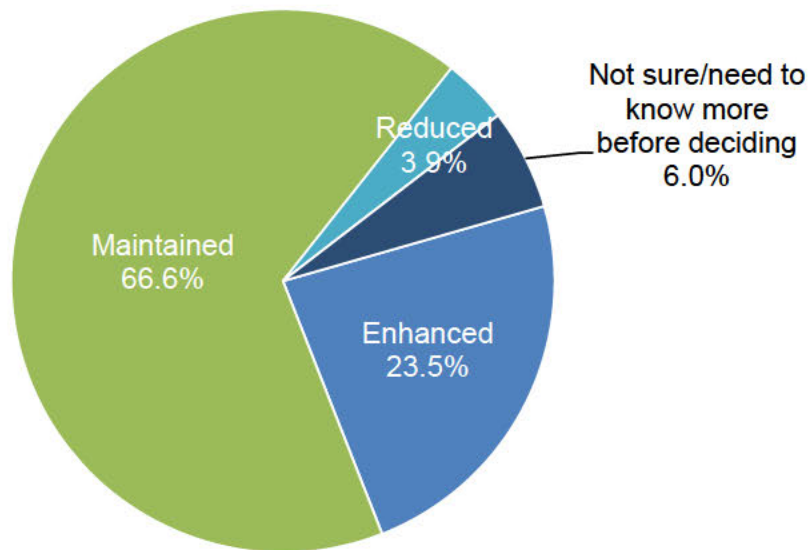
2021 taxes for a \$250,000 residential property would be **\$111**

Quick facts

- Paramedic service provides emergency care to stabilize a patient's condition, initiates rapid transport to hospitals and facilities both emergency and non-emergency transfers between medical facilities.
- Paramedic services receive approximately 50% of its funding from the Province of Ontario.
- In 2020, 13,858 emergency calls were responded to.

Should this investment be:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enhanced	23.5%	121
Maintained	66.6%	343
Reduced	3.9%	20
Not sure/need to know more before deciding	6.0%	31
<i>answered question</i>		515
<i>skipped question</i>		81



County Question 6: Paramedic Services

Comments

Enhanced

No one thinks of this vital essential service: Until you need it. I lost my husband and EMS arrived in 8 minutes. We need to make sure response times are within emergency time frames, and available to all.

Build another base within 10km of Tavistock. It is shameful that Stratford Medics (Perth County) responds here as much or more than our County Service does. Fix it!

As Tavistock is growing, it would be nice to see a station moved closer to the largest population north of Woodstock. Why is there a station near no one (between Hickson & Embro)?? Shouldn't this be located between Hickson & Tavistock??

Need to ensure we are planning for future needs - in advance of needing them.

These guys earn their money and I want them to know that their community values them.

Oxford county needs more advanced care paramedics.

Landsdowne facility improved.

We need them has much as the Fire Department and Services. Lets keep them safe and their mental health in check.

The need for emergency medical care never goes away and as the community ages, it becomes more and more necessary. I believe Paramedic services need to expand as far as emergency 911 services but a Community Paramedic program involving multiple agencies (Oxford PCOT, Home and Family Wellness, High Intensity Support in Home, Addiction Support Services Etc.) is very much needed as well. It should be at the level of the Long Term Care budget as least.

Need more trucks/ stations/ rotations, funding! This is a quick growing community!!!

Increase EMS presence in Zorra Township

As seniors age, they need more medical care. There is only one place in Ingersoll where we can go for blood work etc. We should have at least 2 of them.

Someone living within eyesight of the ambulance depot shouldn't have to wait for the ambulance to come to town from Mt. Elgin while they are having a heart attack!

An absolutely critical service - need to also improve the situation in emergency rooms and the turnover of patients that are brought in by ambulance so that paramedics can leave the patient and take care of other calls, rather than just waiting in the emergency room with the patient they brought in.

Definitely due to increasing population whether they live here but commute to their jobs, housing here was more affordable if they sold a home in Toronto Hamilton or . and saw a opportunity for a good financial investment The closeness to highways and miles of rural roads make emergency services more in need and the quicker the response the better to stabilize any condition

Maintained at minimum but enhanced to provide community support where needed. Example: wellness checks on home bound elderly or disabled.

ONLY enhanced to put more ambulances on the roads. NOT to hire more management. The current Paramedic Services management are a complete waste of money. Their are about 4 too many management positions in that service.

Response times are too slow. If there was a serious medical emergency I worry that emergency services wouldn't get here in time.

Amazing value for the cost given that they are constantly in service responding to actual calls and with over 100 full time/part time employees.

Our communities need enhanced paramedic services, having more paramedics closer and available in our smaller communities and more paramedics to care for the growing and aging population in the larger centers.

Paramedic Services have proven that they can be a real force for change in their actions throughout the pandemic. I would love to see investment into further Community Paramedicine initiatives for supporting LTC waitlists, those living with chronic disease, and vulnerable populations unable to access health care/services.

They do a great job and aren't paid nearly enough for the crap they have to deal with

I want to make sure I get to the hospital and fast if I need it.

We have seen paramedics in the forefront of this pandemic, and its unfortunate to see their funding so low in comparison to other emergency services regardless of provincial funding. As woodstock grows rapidly the need for more paramedics and locations are needed, we need maintained and faster response times from appropriate medical professionals throughout woodstock; and the way to do this is adding more paramedics with our own funding.

Maintained

I'm sure they do a good job.

Great job

Good to hear about paramedics doing COVID testing

Already a quality service. I don't see a need to enhance it.

Good service...

Improve budget handling in healthcare and the money saved can go into patient care and services - too many admin working inefficiently

Please just ensure the attendants have access to treatment for job stress and PTSD.

But I do believe that non medical transfers between medical facilities should not really be fully subsidized by the public. A small fee should be absorbed by the individual utilizing the service. My mother in law is in a home in Hamilton and if she needs to go somewhere via ambulance, she absorbs the cost of \$50 per transfer/ride.

The last thing anyone wants is to have to take 'the gurney ride' . The best way to provide adequate paramedic service is to reduce the number of 'events' that cause the calls. How about a multi-level program aimed at lowering our wretched motor vehicle accident rate, at increasing child and household safety, and in partnership with the WSIB, improving workplace safety?

Not left stagnant but maintained with rising populations.

My understanding is that Oxford County is responsible for responding to 401 calls. Given that expense, municipal gov'ts need to petition the province for the ability to run photo radar along the section of the 401 we are responsible for and revenues collected can go towards the budget expenses of emergency services.

These services are critical to any good health care system, and financial support for them needs to be maintained.

continue the good work

Reduced

There is a user fee when accessing this, it should reflect true cost, those unable to afford there should be assistance in medical emergencies

We watched a neighbour die waiting for an ambulance. We could have drove him faster than response time .

Taxes should be reduced a lot.

Stop waiving the fee for those who are low income. Put a cap on amount of times waived then if had to pay out of pocket would not misuse service

Spend the money on treatment for addicts sucking the life out of this service!

I absolutely recognize the importance of this service , however this service seems to have many over the top perks and top notch vehicle for the managers very costly pick up trucks, signs, events with food etc. I strongly feel that better over site of this service could have a positive impact on the budget

Not sure/need to know more before deciding

We have to pay for ambulance. Perhaps fee should be higher. Seems like I'm paying yearly insurance for something I may never use.

Assessing emergency calls to ensure the appropriate skill set is responding. Our current structure is not working.

People need to stop making BS emergency calls & understand that 911 is for EMERGENCIES!!! & those people that call for non emergency reasons need to face penalties for their actions!! Also, junkies who continue to over dose repeatedly & at the same dealers address should be facing penalties!!!! These idiots need to stop tying up our precious emergency response personal

Would like them to be there when needed. Whether it is as efficient as it could be I cannot say.

I'd like to know how many calls are non- emergent and could be responded to by other services.

County Question 7: Community Planning

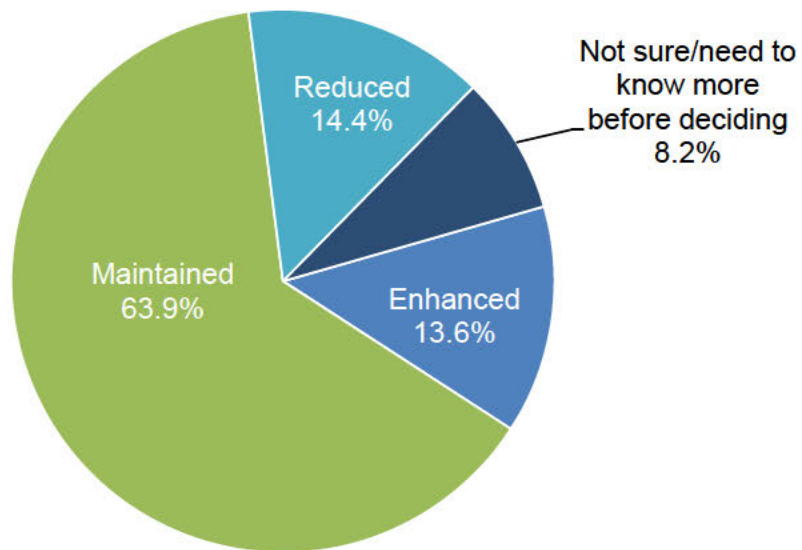
2021 taxes for a \$250,000 residential property would be **\$24**

Quick facts

- Community Planning provides recommendations and advice to Local and County Councils regarding how land is used in the County, including planning for residential development, commercial and industrial growth, agriculture and enhancing the natural environment.
- Planning processes approximately 500 applications annually.

Should this investment be:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enhanced	13.6%	70
Maintained	63.9%	329
Reduced	14.4%	74
Not sure/need to know more before deciding	8.2%	42
<i>answered question</i>		515
<i>skipped question</i>		81



County Question 7: Community Planning

Comments

Enhanced

Affordable housing should be easier to access Dividing large building lots should be an easier process

Community influences our ability to grow, contribute and thrive. We need more community place and spaces in which to gather and play. Having to leave our community denigrates community cohesion and participation.

Fund more pro social work with a progressive vision to build community.

Less sprawl, more density.

More property should qualify to convert your homes into legal duplexes. In addition we need a mall, a nightclub, fine dining restaurants

Quicker reaction time to promote commercial / industrial enhancements and new projects

Should keep growing and make things easier with less red tape and delays. Everyone complains that this process takes too long. Need a plan to grow the tax base

SWPH has done next to nothing for educating Oxford residents throughout the pandemic. More money needs to be invested in planning, especially when 7 Woodstock TVDSB schools will have their students displaced in the Woodstock Area Attendance Review, so that funding can become available to build a new school in North Woodstock. This is unfair to the students, especially when they so desperately require stability in the midsts of a pandemic.

With careful enhanced planning we may be able to support the growth that is needed to be done while remaining responsible on the ecological front.

We need to enhance and preserve our natural environment at all costs. Less development, more greenspace protected.

More integration required for county/townships. Agriculture needs more planning/coordination/regulation.

Need to stop the Mississauga style development. We want to keep Oxford unique. Avoid the postage stamp lots and giant homes. We also need to put the surrounding rural areas beauty ahead of tax revenue.

Again, we have space? What is the hold up?

Thamesford requires additional green space in its new subdivisions.

There are a large number of seniors in Ingersoll especially. It would be nice to see seniors' one floor with garage condos available to them. They could sell their homes to the younger generation that can afford them, so they could move into a 'community' oriented place for these seniors.

There needs to be an assessment and education on the value of open space--including the costs of the permanent losses of them to development including the shrinkage of food supply--so that developers and buyers fully understand the environmental and social costs of building/buying on greenfields as opposed to building/buying on brownfields.

good farmland is being eaten up for houses. good trees are being cut down

Below I have added an excerpt from some comments I made in the Town of Ingersoll section of this survey. I think the words bear repeating here because the issue they relate to is so important and is one on which the Community Planning Department, in its role of overseeing land use in Oxford County, has the potential to effect positive change: "I would like to see the highest priority placed on the protection of our remaining woodlands and wetlands in the immediate Ingersoll area and in the rest of the County. We have lost so much of our natural heritage in Oxford County, and, sadly, we continue to see woodlots and thickets and wetlands (not to mention farmland) fragmented or nickel-and-dimed out of existence due to relentless development. Just how many ugly, cookie-cutter subdivisions are enough? How many unattractive strip plazas and fast food joints are enough? When does it end? Does it ever end? And if it doesn't, what will our town and county look like in 50 or 100 years? Will there be any nature left here? If we rely on the vision of developers to guide or influence our municipal planning, here certainly may not be." And here are some additional thoughts of mine: - The County's Community Planning Department (or a newly-created and independent Ecological Services Department) should consider hiring a "Biodiversity Planner," whose job, in part, would be to assess any planning application -- especially any large land development proposal -- through an environmental lens, rather than an economic one. The purpose here would be to ensure that a proposed development does not in any way undermine or erode Oxford County's remaining natural heritage features. No development that risks doing so should be approved. A further responsibility of the Biodiversity Planner would be to help lead the County's efforts to EXPAND our natural heritage base. If Oxford County is to seriously do its part in combatting climate change and preserving/restoring biological diversity, then this expansion needs to happen NOW. - As an alternative to (but ideally in concert with) the creation of the position of Biodiversity Planner, a "Forest Protection Specialist" should be hired by the County. This person would be an advocate, a public educator, a program leader and, where necessary, a by-law enforcement official with regard to the publicly- and privately-held woodlands of Oxford County. The position would be different from a traditional forester in that woodlands and woodlots would not be primarily viewed as potentially harvestable resources, but rather as critical, living ecosystems that are necessary both for the preservation of our county's native plant and wildlife species and for the protection of our own human health (through the production of oxygen, the absorption of carbon, the protection of groundwater supplies, and the fostering of good mental and physical health through the experiencing of nature, etc.). The Forest Protection Specialist's mission would be to ensure that the county's remaining wooded areas are not diminished by residential and commercial development or by landowner misuse; to educate the public about the environmental value of woodlands (and trees in general); and to direct and assist in the implementation and promotion of a massive tree-planting campaign in collaboration with any local non-profit groups that are already involved in reforestation projects in Oxford. - It is my understanding that Oxford County takes in approximately 500,000 acres. So why not set a tree-planting goal of at least 500,000 trees? Whatever the number, the ultimate goal should be to create a system of biodiverse forests in Oxford that are linked as much as possible by ecological corridors. This should be done using tree and shrub species that are native to Oxford County and that are suitable to a given planning site and to a given area of the county. (For instance, native upland tree species should not be planted in lowland areas and vice versa. Similarly, a tree species native to the southern part of the county might not be naturally found in the northern part of Oxford and therefore should not be planted there. Species and site selection should always be compatible and natural.) - Further to the idea of striving to create ecological corridors, how about County planning or environmental staff leading the implementation of what I will call a "Forests for Fencelines" campaign? Fencelines in an agricultural region like Oxford are widespread and are logical candidates for wildlife migration routes. These routes could be augmented/facilitated with the help of a project focussed on extensive native tree and shrub plantings alongside fencelines throughout the county. Such a project would also help increase the overall natural vegetation cover in Oxford [and also prevent soil erosion]. (According to information I have read, the County's natural vegetation coverage, as of the year 2016, amounted to only about 17% of Oxford's total land area. By any objective ecological standard, especially in an era of indisputable climate change and species decline, this is simply not enough. Our county needs to do more to reverse the loss of natural habitat. There is no political or bureaucratic excuse not to.) - In order to protect existing woodlands and ensure that they are not further fragmented, there should be no future building permitted whatsoever in the wooded areas of Oxford County. This prohibition would include houses and commercial buildings, including agricultural-related structures. The breaking up of intact woodlands into smaller pieces by even a single house or two makes them more vulnerable to the encroachment of invasive plant and animal species, and it has also been proven to be highly detrimental to many forms of native wildlife, such as those birds that require undisturbed tracts of forests to be able to breed and raise their young successfully. - I have made some strong statements above. But they are valid. One might ask, though, if they contradict the comments I made in the section of this survey on Human Services and Housing. I don't think they do. I still believe that every person deserves a home, whether this be a house or an apartment or some other form of safe, affordable dwelling. However, we also have a moral obligation, and a practical one, to protect our larger home -- the earth -- and this protection begins at the local/regional level. To accomplish it, we need to find new and different ways to accommodate the housing needs of people, as well as the commercial needs of our communities, and not just continue to rely on the old-fashioned method -- the developer's preferred method -- of cutting down trees, bulldozing wetlands and paving over large tracts of farmland. It is the responsibility of our municipal planners and politicians to find these new ways.

With the rapid growth of our communities, there needs to be real thought into long term planning. The developments in the north end of Woodstockreek to me (admittedly as an "outsider" of the industry), of little to no planning for the long term. Cookie cutter "copy, paste" houses thrown up as quickly as possible, with little to no services available on that side of the reservoir. Sure it will grow the population and tax base, but at what costs?

More natural environment needs to be maintained. Much of Tillsonburg's wildlife along the trails is being removed and housing put in its place!

I stated above, there should be more lenient towards allowing residential homes to become legal duplexes. Additionally there should be more consideration to developing commercial land for the purposes of shopping, restaurants and entertainment.

Maintained

Consultant brought in to improve downtown street side appeal.

Ensure every new initiative includes green space. The city should develop a green belt area to protect farm land.

Focus on affordable housing in all communities.

Focus on natural environment. Implement oxford natural heritage study recommendations and exceed them. Do not approve reducing lot sizes and spaces between etc in new development. Prevent clear cutting and moonscaping of proposed development areas

Inform homeowners of construction developments in their neighbourhoods.

Let's learn from our large city neighbors and prevent urban sprawl.

More should be done to keep valuable farmland , and woodland from greedy developer

perhaps the application costs should be increased in order to save costs here that can be used in other areas of the budget.

Schools and childcare considered when building new subdivisions, not just roads and sewers.

Should make priority on smaller communities and livability, less car-dependent urban areas. Make urban subdivisions small communities.

Too many sub divisions

Focus on commercial, industrial and agricultural growth. We don't need more residential subdivisions. We need jobs these people can go to in their own community. If they live and work here, they also spend money here. For now we are just a bedroom community for Waterloo and Burlington.

Should be planning to use abandoned housing / buildings in the county. Force owners to update or sell!

Stop trying to expand housing into our farming communities, we have some of the richest and abundant farm land in the province and this land is needed to help feed local families healthy affordable food that is locally grown

The community could certainly benefit from having more areas accessible for ATVs and off road motorcycles. There are a number of people in the community that have these recreational vehicles with limited areas to ride them.

Affordable housing should NOT be built in or near nice single family dwellings! Destroys property and neighbourhood values. Encouraging 'Big City' residents to move to our nice town/area will destroy the town's values.

status quo

Reduced

council doesn't follow rules/recommendations anyways

How many people manage these 500 applications. How long should an application take place. How long do they take place. \$24 is way too high of a number for my family to be paying for something we have not much process in and this application task should not be that hard of process we need to be paying this much.

Keep our fields. Who is going to grow the food if it is all gone?

Less studying and more hands on from our county council would be appreciated. These are not your funds you are spending.

Seems like a high price tag for red tape processing. Probably a lot of redundancy that could be cut to reduce budget. Given that this makes up almost 20% of the paramedic budget and provides non of The life saving services.

That's a high cost for consultations. Why not consult with residents and property owners, people that will be directly impacted by changes.

This is red tape. Studies and consulting firms stealing from the coffers with councils blessings.

Development should pay for development. Application fees should cover this all

Could be managed through public consultation.

How is this more money than early years?

So much regulatory red tape and burden in these programs.

500

Don't need more residential housing, we need to keep the farms intact

Very disappointed of City of Woodstock to try to get more agricultural land in East Zorra Tavistock in a rather under handed way.

Not sure/need to know more before deciding

I would hope the community planning is focusing on the environmental and a more equitable future for all people.

Not sure what this is but it seems expensive to be looking at 500 applications. That's roughly 2 applications per work day. Seems like it is a bit much but again the description of what they do is not good.

The Tiny Homes Project is BS!!!

These farm land to housing isn't it guys. \$600,000+ poor planning. Makes our communities loose some charm

Maybe tell Woodstock they are done growing until they can maintain what they have now.

Maybe some more transparency. i.e the Plattsville affordable housing surprise where the tennis courts used to be.

The subdivisions going into rural communities are ridiculous in the lot sizes required. Realize it's because we were too cheap to put in sewers years ago but now the strain on our water supply is going to be unsustainable as these lots will be mostly lawns and people will want to water them +++also the house sizes and design

Does this planning include: All the new subdivisions should have to have a percentage for low income housing, low income housing should be merged with the subdivisions. Not like in the 50's when low income meant lots of town(row) housing all lumped together, which is wrong, that just creates slum like conditions.

Over the years of being in the City it's main focus is competitive being manufacturing and automotive Retail and Commercial We need to make the change back to manufacturing what we need here in Woodstock many # of years ago many factories manufactured or had facilities for the Apple orchards in the area, Had there own brand of socks, underwear, - drapery - the Cheese factory facilities still exist , on a smaller scale but they are here and thriving - Furniture Promote our young Adults to seek employment as a credit ? to help on local farms to learn about agricultural business/ careers Promote more career oriented opportunities in high school for trades and apprenticeship with possibly of employment Eligible students get summer employment with city services parks, recreation, offices etc. Is there ever a opportunity to learn why the job is done in the first place Example do they really know a flower from a weed, ? Part of the planning for the job they are doing I recently watched a young man at Innerkip ball diamond in charge of marking the diamonds before a game, he impressed me his concentration on the task and the method he did the job, all on his own, proves he enjoyed his job even on a early Saturday morning. Right down to handling the equipment as if he owned it and took care putting the equipment away after use

County Question 8: Oxford County Library

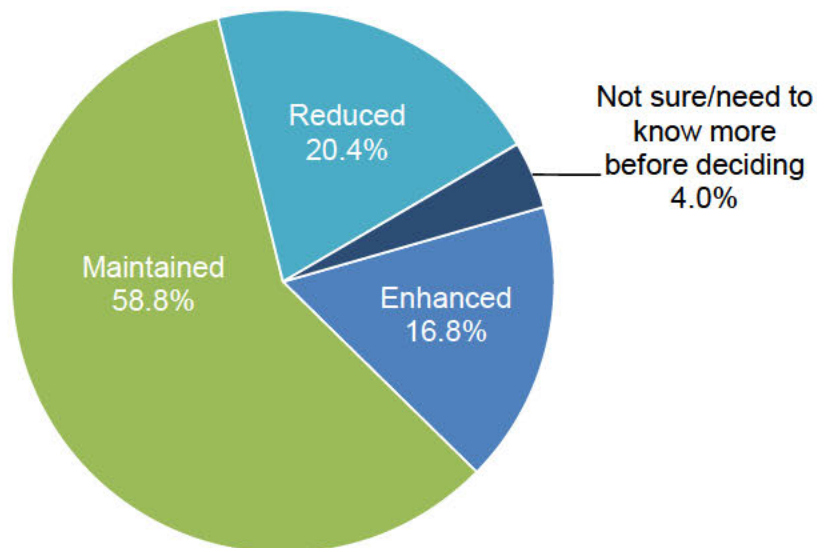
2021 taxes for a \$250,000 residential property would be **\$91**

Quick facts

- Oxford County provides library services at 14 branch locations across the County, and offers electronic services and resources at www.ocl.net
- County libraries are exploring new ways to serve residents as “community hubs,” offering special programs, events and experiential learning.
- The pandemic impacted how library services could be delivered, including moving all library programs to a virtual format. 168 Facebook video programs were created by staff, reaching 220,097 viewers and generating 20,996 engagements (likes, shares, comments). Use of electronic resources went up by 38% in 2020. People turned to the library for lifelong learning opportunities throughout the pandemic with 13,415 Universal Class online courses taken – almost 3,000 more courses than were taken in 2019.

Should this investment be:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enhanced	16.8%	76
Maintained	58.8%	266
Reduced	20.4%	92
Not sure/need to know more before deciding	4.0%	18
<i>answered question</i>		452
<i>Not applicable</i>		63
<i>skipped question</i>		81



County Question 8: Oxford County Library

Comments

Enhanced

Great library services in Tillsonburg - can not speak for other communities

I absolutely love my library card. I mainly use the Burgessville library and it's a fantastic resource. Not only have I saved a ton of money on buying books I also feel a bit more connected to the community. I've been only able to use curbside pickup lately but what a wonderful resource.

it is important to provide community-based places and spaces for people across the county.

Libraries can and should be integrated with all other county services to be places of support. More libraries, more hours, add services like food pantries, shelter and showers/washrooms. Extend services to be mobile and lend wifi hotspots.

More makerspaces please. [REDACTED] and team are doing a good job with this - continue to grow these programs at free or afford rates. Use community space such as libraries for community meeting places, especially in inclement times of the year.

More non-traditional library services and programs. Park passes, equipment rentals, partner with local community groups for education opportunities. Advertise these services. Libraries are very underutilized!

More outreach beyond computer walls, especially to assist people who have limited ability to use computer technology to improve their lives

Provide more municipal services from library branches. Make them community centers for youth, parents, seniors. A place where people can meet.

Slightly, again look at where to get the funds from other less needed areas

The libraries are new community centres and as such should continually be enhanced with new ideas, programs, etc. Never cut the funding to this service.

The library system has been awesome in this past year and has risen to the challenge of providing excellent and innovative service during covid lockdown

The library is our greatest asset and should be greatly supported.

Libraries as community hubs. Love the changes and the trends here. More please. Internet availability deficits in rural areas so need a suite of methods for delivery until we get that fixed.

Expanded library hours at Innerkip and more space for more materials

The Brownsville Library hours need to be clearly posted. The hours seem to change frequently. It should be opened more on a daily basis, except Sundays, at the same times like other libraries. Perhaps a brochure distributed to the area, outlining the services, times, and activities available there would help to increase usage.

I believe that with increased funding, additional services could be offered from the library, including mental health education sessions and family supports.

Can someone explain why the library is closed on Sundays? The one day that kids with jobs can access the services and people who are not retired could use the library. Ridiculous.

They provide many great services on a shoestring. Imagine what they could do with more

Our local library in Mount Elgin has hours of operation that do not work for the majority of families that work in the daytime. It would be better to have evening hours for better access. Not everyone is a stay at home parent and many families are 2 income and availability is limited to the evenings.

Our family are regular library users. The staff do a great job and I support growth of libraries as a community hub

Maybe then the Thamesford branch could go back to regular daily hours.

I have always had a soft spot for libraries and books, so I am predisposed to supporting almost any enhancement of library services in the county. But I don't know what the most pressing needs of the OCL might be, especially in an increasingly computerized world. Out of a personal interest in local history and genealogy, though, I would like to see the undertaking of a complete digitization of the historical issues of all current and former local newspapers in Oxford County, so that they can be freely accessed via the Internet, rather than having to resort to examining them on a microfilm reader inside an actual library branch.

my family has enjoyed all the services the library offers.

Maintained

At least maintained, but should access to library materials have changed substantially and put pressure on electronic resources (as an example) it likely deserves an enhanced budget. Library services are vital in this and in all communities.

While the library is a fantastic leisure and learning space, I think for 2022 we need to focus on the most pressing issues that have befallen the city and maybe the following year(s) look at enhancements to the library. I hate saying that but there really are bigger priorities right now than the library and it's a beautiful, well stocked and progressive library so I think it can wait while the more serious issues are dealt with.

Would love for the library to purchase a Cricut cutting machine for people to borrow - similar to the kitchen appliances

Wonderful to have a library in town here. Thank you.

The library should partner with schools to encourage children to use the library facilities.

Love the library services.

We have a beautiful library that supports many activities.

We have a wonderful public library system.

Until they know better how to better meet the new needs they have discovered during COVID

The library staff have been innovative in redesigning programming. I think there is still a need for paper resources in a digital world...

I love how the library has evolved with the times and the technology and hope it continues to do so.

Our libraries have had a great need in our communities and have done a great job reinventing the libraries

Our libraries are great

I find it hard to believe that virtually costs are as much as in person costs so I would hope that over the past two years, we have been able to save some money from this area and not just spend it because we have it and don't want to lose it.

Reduced

high staff costs vs usage by many residents. High demands by small % of clients. Should we consolidate some services.. do we really need to loan out bread makers and tools.

I am unsure why the library budget is so high. I would like to see more library services in Embro (ie enhanced hours) but at this price tag to the tax payer. I am unsure how that is justifiable.

I asked several of my friends if they use Oxford County Library and all of them said no, including myself. I think this is a high cost for something used so rarely. I wouldn't eliminate the service, but I'd lower its cost.

I don't see this being a priority moving forward.

Less and less relevant in the modern technological era. Only for those who rely on it currently, should not be promoted as a tool or asset to the community.

Most people don't use this resource.

My family does not use this.

Perhaps all the offerings could be centrally located. The empty buildings repurposed.

Should have a service fee for extras

start small fee for services for those who use If only fee is few dollars it would help increase funding to put back into library to increase, improve programs

Switch to a user fee same as City of Woodstock. Seldom visit the actual building. Typically borrow everything thru online service. Amount set aside via taxes seems incredibly high for my own personal use and the number of people actually using the service.

Taxes should be reduced. As everything is going virtual this service should be reduced at the physical location..

never used this service.

The Beachville library had been closed for many years, so I feel like we don't much benefit from this.

I enjoy online books, the pandemic has shown how little I miss the actual library.

Library's are obsolete. this is way too much compared to other places this money could be spent.

Eliminate this and charge a fee to use the library

Most things are online.

Waste of money

Paying for a library that couldn't be used to take out a physical book

I believe the use of library services have changed over the years and needs to be innovated - I believe the pandemic forced this change and it may be moving in a positive direction and could use less funding for the physical location.

Not sure/need to know more before deciding

But, it would be of interest that more promotional ideas are directed to youth and residents by Twitter, fact sheets etc

I love our library system. It is so necessary to support the community. Please make sure funding keeps pace with cost of inflation.

Not Applicable

I don't go to or use Woodstock Public Library as a result of all the homeless & junkies hanging out there. It's not a safe environment & I don't think the staff should be permitting such behavior to take place

Woodstock should be included, OCL delivers good services we need here.

When I lived in Tillsonburg the OCL system rocked. I can only imagine the hard work that has happened during these rough times to keep the system going and help the patrons. OCL rocks!!!

Do city of Woodstock residents pay \$91 a year or more for a library they can't use?

County Question 9: Water and Wastewater

Your 2021 water and wastewater bill will vary depending on your community and consumption. Click [here](#) to estimate your annual bill.

Quick facts

Wastewater Services

- 9 wastewater treatment plants, over 600 km of sanitary sewers / forcemains, 36 sewage pumping stations and two odour control facilities are operated and maintained across 11 different municipal wastewater systems which service more than 31,000 customers.

- In 2020, 14,663 megalitres of wastewater was treated.

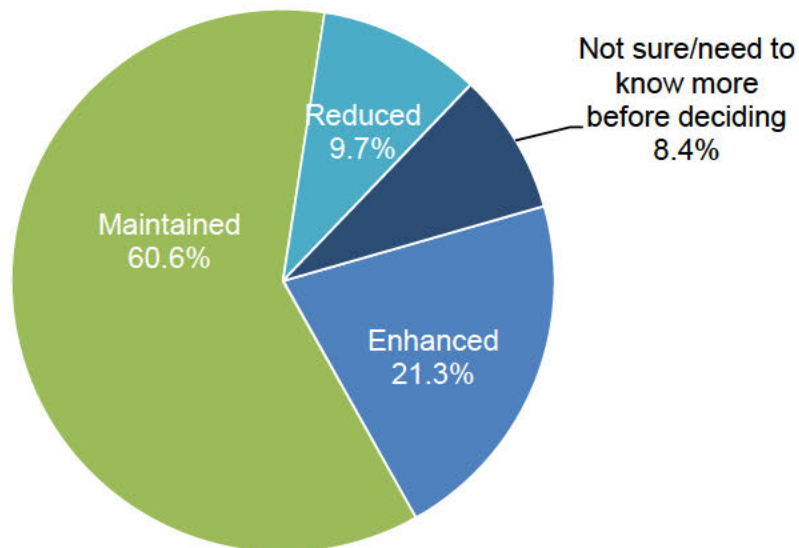
Water Services

- 60 water supply wells, 17 water treatment plants, over 725 km of watermains, 42 water reservoirs/towers and 6 water booster stations are operated and maintained across 17 municipal different drinking water systems which serve 21 communities across Oxford County.

- In 2020, 10,758 megalitres of water was treated for both residential and commercial consumption.

Should this investment be:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Enhanced	21.3%	99
Maintained	60.6%	281
Reduced	9.7%	45
Not sure/need to know more before deciding	8.4%	39
<i>answered question</i>		464
<i>Not applicable</i>		51
<i>skipped question</i>		81



County Question 9: Water and Wastewater

Comments

Enhanced

I feel our water and wastewater rates are rather expensive when compared to other municipalities.

need to look at ways to improve our facilities. retrofit them to have biogas capabilities. look at companies such as Anaergia. and new products from APGN that power themselves. This should be looked at at the same time as green waste bin programs.

Our water is so hard on everything and we pay so much for it.

Our water quality needs to improved and maintained.

The lagoon work last year showed just how substandard the system here is. The lagoons never should have been built in the first place. Plans should be looked at for a wastewater plant down the road.

The water we drink, the air we breathe: Essential for generations to come!!

There is no much Lyme build up in our water lines

Waste water plants should be enhanced to obtain energy from the waste. They could also be designed to accept the green bin materials to process that material as well to increase the energy output.

Water could be better for the price.

Water fees are high

Water in Ingersoll in atrocious compared to anywhere else I have ever lived. The taste and smell are vile, and the amount of naturally occurring fluoride is unacceptable. While I understand it is well water and there is a limit to what can be done, I would love to see a system wide ro installed and then there would need to be some reminerslization added. I know this is a huge job and nowhere near as easy as it sounds, but the quality of what we receive out of our tap is disgusting for a country like Canada. I am embarrassed when I have visitors to tell them they can only drink out of the ro spigot.

Water is vital for life.

Without quality water, nothing else matters. We must kick the planned dump out of this area of ours. A disaster waiting to happen which will cause us to need to get water from Lake Huron at great expense for the survival of the entire area population

Work to soften the water so it doesnt destroy appliances

The waste water dump in Tavistock is noisy and smells. Not sustainable for a growing community and costing a lot money to upkeep with growing population

We only clicked enhanced because water should not be messed around with. We think we have good and ample water, thank goodness. Township does a good job of this. Don't want a Walkerton to happen.

Some communitis still living with septic systems. Should be all sanitary sewer systems.

We desperately need wastewater services in Brownsville. Our water table is incredibly high and causes issues to the whole community. We need waste water services!!

Ingersoll water is so hard that people have to have a water softener! No one buys hot water tanks because they only last for a few years because of that. Also, why does our water stink so much from Friday-Sunday?

The water is disgusting and undrinkable. Showering smells like chlorine constantly and the high fluoride is a disturbing addition.

The cost of municipal water and waste water is to high and should be lowered.

Our current facility is old and outdated, with the city expanding, it will not keep up with the demand of waste water and clean water needed.

Our tap water doesn't taste good anymore. This encourages people to buy plastic water bottles or forces them to purchase their own water filters

Safe drinking water is critical

Water is precious. There needs to be enhanced education of best practices in preserving groundwater and to control erosion, e.g. rain barrels, permeable services, wetlands preservation, dispersed flow, etc.

With the rapid development in the northeast corner of Woodstock I feel the water quality has declined substantially. Often in the morning I experience a smell from my water until about noon or so. I am concerned about drinking water quality, smells from the water when I launder my clothes or bath. My neighbours have mentioned similar concerns. I have not received much cooperation with city staff when attempting to articulate my concerns.

Wastewater services for Blandford-Blenheim please

The water in Drumbo is actually scary. Constantly discoloured, but the county tells us it's supposedly safe. I'm not so sure. We have a water softener AND a filtration system, and our appliances are still consistently caked in deposits. That can't be healthy for us. We're also paying significantly more than we've ever paid for water in multiple regions.

Despite the water quality in the Mount Elgin area passing provincial safety standards, the quality, taste and mineral content of the water is disappointing to say the least. It creates an undesired flavour and heavy deposit buildup in plumbing, appliances and showers. My water currently measures 355 ppm of total dissolved solids - this is twice the amount measured in the tap water of my previous residential area of Niagara Region. I am lucky to get 2 or 3 weeks out of my water filter before it needs to be replaced. The unfiltered water is undrinkable to my family.

more public drinking water filling stations to reduce plastic water bottle use.

Nothing else matters if you don't have clean water.

Most communities have been ignoring water waste water as it's an easy thing to push down the road. Very dangerous practice, we need to ensure the services are well-maintained to position us for the future and safe drinking water

Maintained

Community growth is inevitable and needed however it should be noted that the cost of new infrastructure for water and waste water for new developments should be covered entirely by the developer and not the current community residents.

I don't see any need for enhancement barring any kind of emergency that might crop up.

Important.

My city of Woodstock water revenue should not be used to pay for other county of oxford projects. Better yet all Woodstock water revenues should go back to the city. The City of Woodstock also should take back the system and operate it not the County.

Water prices in Drumbo are outrageous. Costs more than hydro in our household.

Water should be softened at treatment plant.

Why does our township for water cost more than areas around us

Kind of important. I hope all this industry is paying it's fair share.

Just at least COVID expenses die down.

I spend more on additional fees than actual water consumption.

Educate residents about where there water comes from & encourage consevation

I would prefer that we were back on the flat monthly rate for water. It was easier to understand. Why can't the billing cycle and the due date be consistent from month-to-month? I thought with these WI-fi enabled water meters the readings could be obtained on the same day each month and then the bill could be due on the same day each month. With all the additional housing being build in Thamesford, will there be enough water if we were to have another summer of drought conditions like last summer?

Water prices are extremely high.

Reduced

I see tanker trucks filling up on our water, need to charge them for accessing and add larger fees for bulk water. Also no enforcement in this area so if there was ways to enforce water restrictions and wastewater dumping from pools

Increase costs for commercial consumption and not the home owners

Living around the great lakes of Canada/Ontario water should be free. OK there will be a cost to supply and maintain the water distribution. The current cost and the availability of water to use is way to high. In my opinion, it is not being managed efficiently.

Our water bills are ridiculous. Highest around...Why?!

Rates are to high. Need to conserve and protect drinking water. To much is wasted watering lawns flushing toilets etc

Thinking about making my own well water source because this water bulk price for the town is so high.

Too expensive! If the maintenance of our water systems is this high, the province should be stepping in to improve service and reduce costs. Town should be reimbursing citizens for the accelerated use of filters due the amount of discolouration and smell from unfiltered water!

Too much in reserves, not spending on the projects as planned but taxing for them early is unfair to the residents. Rates are way too high.

Waste water rates should be reduced from June- September 1st for lawn watering and pool usage. This water does not reach sewage treatment. Reduce % of reserves accordingly

Water bills are absolutely unacceptable in Drumbo

We are on a well & septic. We should NOT have to pay for this service.

Our water bills in this areas are too high. I used to live in KW (Baden) and paid HALF of what I pay here. Where are the inefficiencies?

Sewage usage should be charged differently. Assuming my water usage automatically translates into the amount I waste is short-sighted.

I pay more for water in the town of tillsonburg than I did in the city of hamilton. Our water is hard as hell and smells half the time. These rates should be chopped in half or the quality of the water increased.

The service fees for water and waste water on the monthly bills are too high to residents.

we have an abundance of fresh water, why do we pay so much?

Not sure/need to know more before deciding

Community growth needs to be considered to answer this question in part. Water quality needs to be assessed and traced to human health impacts and trends. We are as healthy as the water we consume. Investments to keep people well supplied with healthy water should be paramount.

Not really sure why wastewater costs so much more than actual water.

why should I have to paywastewater if I water my lawn

If the annual cost of my water and wastewater services were to be teased out of my EARTH Power utility bills and applied to my property taxes instead, it would be the largest contributor to my tax bill of all the various County-provided services. The high cost of electricity in Ontario seems to get most of the public's attention, while the cost of water and wastewater services almost flies under the radar. For me personally, water and wastewater charges are regularly double that of the electricity portion of my utility bill. And these charges seem to increase every year. I don't like this as a taxpayer, but at the same time I also understand the huge importance of these services. After all: no water, no life. I also recognize that water-related infrastructure doesn't last forever. Eventually, it must be upgraded or replaced. On the wastewater side of things, I have some questions: - What is the level of sewage treatment at the various treatment plants in Oxford? Is it secondary or tertiary? (Ideally, it should be the latter.) - Where does the sewage sludge that is produced at these plants eventually go? - What is being done -- is there anything that can be done? -- to filter out the microplastics that are no doubt in the wastewater that arrives at Oxford's treatment facilities? Microplastics have become a real environmental problem, and I shudder to think about the sheer quantity of them that is being discharged into our county's watercourses. - I assume that the final stage of wastewater disposal is the release of the treated liquid into the Thames River or other county watercourses. What kind of water-quality monitoring is done downstream of these discharges and who (what agency) does this monitoring? What are the cumulative impacts of these discharges on fish and other wildlife, and on the general health of the Thames River? - Finally, might it be worthwhile for County staff to produce a pamphlet or a factsheet that describes in an easily understandable way how our wastewater is treated and where it ultimately goes? Let's face it: Most of us don't think about wastewater once it's flushed down the toilet. A factsheet outlining how it's dealt with might be very educational for people. It might even help to change some bad habits.

The city wastewater comes from a swamp Don't swamps eventually dry up?

Not Applicable

We are on a well and have a septic system.

We have a well

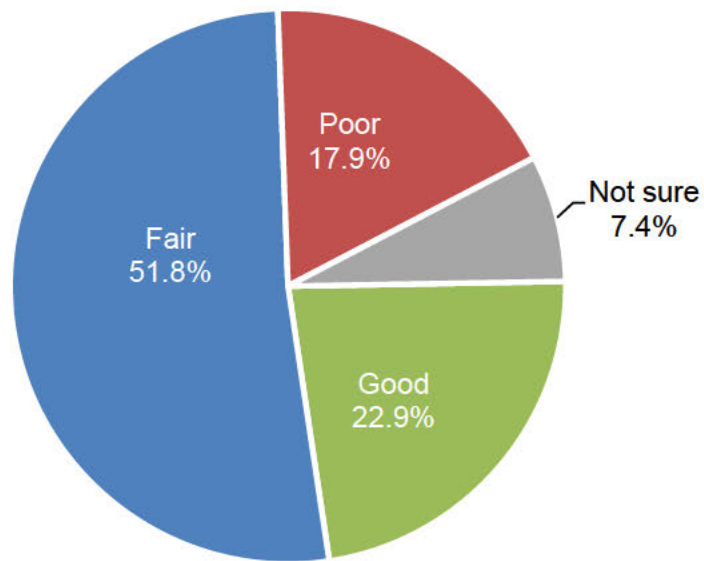
Due to covid a lot of drop off centres for well water testing kits for southwestern public health were closed. The only places close to me were hospitals, but as a healthy person with an infant at home I don't want to go near a hospital during a pandemic.

County Question 10: Overall Value

2021 taxes for a \$250,000 residential property would be **\$1,010**

Rate the overall value:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Good	22.9%	118
Fair	51.8%	267
Poor	17.9%	92
Not sure	7.4%	38
<i>answered question</i>		515
<i>skipped question</i>		81



County Question 10: Overall Value

Comments

Good

Better spend then Woodstock's tax budget.

Good services

However, the Town and County should push the province to do and other property assessment update. With the 2019 base year update for Jan 2021 being shelved and our current assessment being based on 2016 values (which are have no relevance to todays sales values) the municipalities need a more up to date assessment to base the property taxes on. The longer the update to values goes the more the new values will have to be phased in since no taxpayer will accept an increase of over 50% in property taxes in one year especially in the current economic climate.

I believe many township people living solely as residential (Not a farm), do not pay enough taxes to assist in the overall Oxford picture for facilities.

We are blessed to live where we do! Please use our tax dollars wisely, from start to finish. We all work hard for those funds.

On a whole, we are pleased with our services. We could nitpick but that may have to come with "squeaky wheel get the grease" when the time comes.

I think it is reasonably managed... but it could be better.

The county is managed much better than the town

Seniors should not need to pay for school board

Too bad my property taxes should be slightly higher, yet I pay a lot more than that!

Overall I am grateful for the community I live in and the services provided here but I see the potential for growth at a responsible cost in the future.

Fair

I came here 17 years ago from St. Thomas. Almost identical demographics yet our municipal tax bill doubled when we moved here and built our house. It was shocking. I'm not sure why there such a big disparity between the two cities. With such high taxes here there should be no problem working out the top issues plaguing this city. If there is a problem then something is very wrong with the budget.

If that were true it would seem reasonable

My tax bill is fair. However, there are rumours about EZT perhaps building a new admin building. This is absolutely irresponsible expenditure of taxpayers money and should not be considered. If there is a shortage of space, spend a bit of money and renovate the existing building. You are not building an empire here, it is EZT, population of about 7,000. Give your heads a shake.

We have our well that we maintain and replace if necessary, would prefer not to pay taxes for this service.

When I compare my taxes to those of friends and family in other Ontario communities, ours are much higher and we receive much less for the money. Spending should be re-evaluated and wise investments made to support individuals and families now and in the future.

It feels as though taxes are very high and services don't improve accordingly.

When compared with Toronto or Peel region, taxes seems to be relatively higher but the services rendered to residents remain marginally poor when compared - should look into this.

I might have rated the overall value as good, were it not for my belief that the County of Oxford is not doing as much as it should or could to protect our region's natural environment. (The County's area municipalities have some accountability here as well.)

Again, we are forced as members of this society to do more with less, let's find ways to do the same with the county. Maybe less vehicles to start with.

Property taxes in Woodstock are high considering however they are still reasonable

It's always nice to have more and better services. However we have to resist the urge to do this as our taxes are too high in this city. Speaking specifically of Woodstock. I realize we are at a difficult size were critical infrastructure is needed like fire police and ambulance and have limited population to spread it over. Have we looked at alternative options instead of our own police department like OPP?

Poor

County accountability is low. I hear Woodstock wants more representation. Why not elect councillors direct.. then they may be more accountable to the taxpayer

Disagree with having to pay for schools but private schools do not get funding, should have a choice where dollars are allocated as private schools still need to bus in kids and have the same infrastructure. Families with kids should have to pay a higher percentage as they are receiving the benefits more

Efficiencies could be found. An expensive service review was done years ago but no reductions in staffing or betterments were made. Every year the budget increases. That should not be the norm!

Expect better conditions for what I pay in taxes.

I don't think I use very many if any of the services that my taxes go to. I would like to see all the roads paved in the county, in 2021 that should not be too much to ask.

I feel like i pay a lot for taxes. I think small improvements, like weekly recycling pickup, would make my taxes feel "worth it".

IMO taxes are too high for what the average person gets out of it. I know I advised to enhance several things, but there has to be a better way to get this stuff done without the taxes being so high. we are very seriously considering moving out of town due to a combination of lack of housing and high taxes

Never helped me after repeated requests! I feel like I pay too much for little to no service

Our property taxes are pretty high!

Our taxes are higher here than when we lived in Oakville. Seniors do not have sufficient services.

Rate of taxes in Woodstock, Oxford County is much higher than larger cities in South West Ontario We pay more for garbage, water rates, hydro. People are leaving the area as can't afford to live here now Larger cities have cheaper taxes and much more services provided

Something needs to be done about the brush and yard waste depot. It is being utilized by people from Shakespeare, New Hamburg, New Dundee, just to name a few. I live across the street from the property and I was told it would be paved at the end of April. I have not been provided a new date. The dust is a real issue. There is also very poor communciation when it comes to projects being done in Tavistock. The lagoon project was a prime example of that.

Taxes in Ingersoll are much to high for the services we receive.

Taxes should be reduced. Schools are now mostly being virtually operated/ educated, property tax to school boards should be reduced a lot.

See all comments

Again we pay the most and have tiny parcels of land. I have talked to other residents who have large lots and were shocked at how much we pay on Poldon

High tax rates for an unsafe downtown Woodstock, lack of bylaw enforcement etc.

As a resident with a young child who previously lived in Brampton, I feel we get very little for the amount of taxes we pay. Our road is one of the last to get plowed in the winter, we have to pay for garbage tags, recycling is not weekly, I can't get registered child care and there are so few spots for recreational activities that I can't get my child into anything. This city has grown exponentially over the last few years but the city's services have not kept up with the population. Our downtown core is an embarrassment with the homeless and junkies and business owners have no incentive to stay, forcing people to buy from big box stores instead of local.

The County of Oxford has rewarded huge increases in pay to their senior management team over the years. This is a fraud led by the Human Resource department. They should outsource the entire HR department to save money.

We see very little personal value for the taxes we pay

Taxes are too high. Don't know how retired elderly people survive with paying so much

The price of updating schools is going to hit our system hard, yet we continue to overcrowd the classrooms which make each classroom a petri dish, hasn't the pandemic taught our Ministry of Education anything? 2) What happens when the millennials who have the I need it now attitude and high debt unable to pay the taxes due to job loss, wage freeze, or place of employment simply moves to another county is the response to raise the taxes and make seniors dig in their already empty pockets. It is too easy these days to get a mortgage and they have no worries about paying that mortgage off. We need a better system for taxes, certainly the higher income earners are doing a happy dance as we all pay the same per residential household for taxes.

Property taxes are extremely high. We are still paying to put out our garbage, biweekly recycling and no compost. I pay such high taxes and still do not have a tree in my front yard. Invest some more money into downtown. At this point I am not comfortable bringing my children down there for any reason. Who wants to sit on a patio for dinner and watch junkies shooting up and have to explain that to young children. We want to shop and dine in Woodstock but are not comfortable bringing our family to downtown of the city we live in. I don't feel safe downtown and am scared to walk alone. The city has brought in more homeless people and problems since Covid. If the city is getting a kick back from that and wants to raise my hardworking tax dollars that is not right!

Property taxes are very high in Woodstock. When TMMC first came to Woodstock staff didn't move, they just commuted. Why are we so high?

Not Sure

Telling me this figure, but not allowing me to access the part of the survey that showed me how much was local, how much was Oxford and how much was education makes answering this question uninformed. A recap of those percentages would have been good. If local is 50% and Oxford is 40% and education is 10%, I would feel one way but if local is 30% and Oxford is 50% and education is 20%, I would feel differently.

There needs to be a program to educate the managers and tenants of apartment buildings about the taxes--and where they go--that we indirectly pay with our rents.

Final Comments: Are there any further comments or suggestions you would like to add regarding the County's or your Local Municipal budget for 2022?

Comments

Addressing the homeless issue especially in the downtown core. Downtown revitalization is impossible without first addressing this issue. The downtown core is not a location suitable for meth clinics and homeless shelters. I have noticed recently that some homeless people have been sleeping in Victoria Park so they are spreading out. Something should be done to provide them with shelters outside of the downtown core but more importantly, programs should be put in place to assist them to get back on their feet and into employment.

All levels of government need to work together to find efficiencies for the taxpayers and reductions to tax bills (real reductions not just through assessment roll increases). This can be done if government wants to actually do it!

And yet again. With the price of housing jumped up so high, and the lack of work for many I personally can NOT afford more money to be spent on this. Is it going to jump?

As a new resident it's really confusing knowing whether I need to turn to the City of Woodstock or the County. I wish things were more streamlined and consistent.

Bag tags should be frozen , you are running a surplus , give us 1 free bag !!! Increase recycling to accept more . Woodingford salaries are over what other Nursing home staff receive , freeze wages . Way to many County staff on the Sunshine list !!! Need to say NO to the city of Woodstock expansion into the Country , protect our vauably farmland and trees !!!

Balance the budget and stop leaving large deficits for future generations. Part of moving from a house is to ensure that everything is cleaned up before the new tenant arrives.

Better co-operation between Thames valley district school board and Waterloo-oxford DSS. It is awesome to be able to send our ids to this school as it is closer, but telling the public school they can not aid in the transition if this is there school of choice is a horrible thing to do to the kids. We figure it out, but way to try and hinder their choice and make this next step more stressful. I understand you dont want to give them the tax money, but great big get over it.

By law enforcement needs to be greatly improved. You need to look at high tech elimination of garbage incinerating like Peel Region instead of landfill. Property taxes are far to high compared to Peel Region where you get better value for your dollar.

City of Woodstock Council needs to do a better job of keeping residents informed on how the budget is used and what is needed. This survey is a good step however city councilors and mayors etc should be using their voice to discuss the budget and get people more informed. ALSO- Online voting costs need to be added to the budget, the city needs online voting, the upfront costs compared to the benefit of having a higher voter turn out because of the fact it would be more accessible to residents is important.

Clean up the mess the downtown has become Implement weekly by recycling

Establishing, implementing and guiding the expenditures of a municipal budget is, obviously, a complex undertaking. We all have our wants and needs when it comes to the services we value. Underlying all of this is the hope that there is ongoing evaluation of the efficiency and lack of duplication in the both the services and personnel responsible for those services. Having said that, I commend the dedicated staff working for the best interests and best value for taxpayers.

Every day we see an empty centre up here in Sally Creek. Would be great if the town could use it!

Force Developers to have more Green space in their plans. And stop them from destroying small woodlots like what was done in the back of Rolling Meadows Subdivision, that was just shameful. Now we have a possible coyote problem in time limits. Their hunting for small game in our back yards.

Funding of the splash pad in Tavistock should be a priority particularly while pools are closed due to the pandemic.

Get rid of the garbage bag tags in woodstock since we own the landfill

Great questionnaire. I appreciated the opportunity to share my opinion in such an easy manner.

High speed internet needs to happen on the rural areas like the 5th concession. Not just the Drumbo Princeton road

Housing & increased disability support is needed. The poverty is a death knell for the already disabled. This & lack of housing is SHAMEFUL.

I am aware this is a much larger issue but, I would like to see a removal of the Catholic school board and it to be merged into one general school board. I believe there needs to be a solid line between church and state. I also do not agree with funding a school board for 1 religion even though there are a large number of religions within our province. I believe it is putting the Christian religion on a "pedestal" above the other religions which is just not acceptable.

I am in favour of the spray pad trying to come to Tavistock. I am also hoping our Chamber can do something to attract a local business to operate a proper pub style restaurant to open in Tavistock. With the recent sale of both the Gazette building and the Golf course I am excited to see what new businesses could operate. I am sad to see the Chinese restaurant close. They had the best food! I am also a little nervous when I hear what some homes are selling for in Tavistock. I am a life long resident of Tavistock, living in a village this size is a complete different way of life compared to a city like K-W or Toronto. When homes are selling over asking by as much as \$2 or \$3 hundred thousand I fear its big city folk and they will want to change how we live to accommodate their big-city thinking. While some change is good, some is not. If you move to a small village they should be expected to adapt to our way of life. (Just like I would have to adapt to a big city way of life if I moved to a big city. I don't want that so I stay put.)

I have found my dealings with Tillsonburg council and mayoral office to be very good. Response times and customer service attitude is also very good. I can not say the same for Oxford County and found the Warden to be an unhelpful bully the one time I took something to council.

I have said what I needed to. Thank you for providing this survey.

I personally think that Southwest health department should be better funded. I lost my mother this year and am very angry that they took too long to visit and assess my mother. My mom final had a bathroom inside and was taken to hospital. She was there from Tue to Sat and passed away late Sat Am. If they had come to assess sooner she would have been in hospital a lot sooner and would have been more comforted. Thank you

I would like more resources and recreation for children and adults. A library would be amazing. Transportation would be life changing

I would like to have more subsidized and wheelchair accessible apartments built. I live in a subsidized partially accessible apartment and would like to have more options of apartments in Woodstock suitable for me and my limited income.

I would like to see a plan to address Truth and Reconciliation report that would have local actions, resident involvement and positive outcomes to demonstrate our support.

Improving following would be what I would highly value... 1. Affordable Housing 2. Helping Homeless 3. Recycling Program (Accept more items) Thank you for the opportunity.

In case you didn't realize I want a green bin program!!

In the past 5yrs agricultural land taxes have gone up substantially yet bare land has not used most of the services those taxes support.

Ingersoll is in desperate need of more housing like most of Southern Ontario. Personally I think Ingersoll would benefit from more high density housing (apartment buildings) rentals and owned units for seniors and young adults. It would be beneficial to attract developers of this type of property.

Just that a lot of people have suffered financial difficulties during the pandemic and would appreciate the budget committee taking this into consideration. It is going to take time to also recover, so spend wisely and sometimes a new vehicle if running well is not necessary

Let's ensure we don't make the mistakes our neighboring large cities made. Prevent urban sprawl, plan for roadways appropriately and keep pedestrian and cycling traffic in mind for all planning.

List of priorities should have included "Future Oxford", that would have been my #1, especially as it touches on several aspects of municipal service. At least "other" should have been an option with the opportunity to specify

Maintain services but would like to see all types of housing developed

Make addiction and housing a priority

More activities for kids and youth in Tavistock Adults as well

More investment in bike lanes, green space and waste diversion.

More police presence in Springford-county road 13.

My must, in all long term planning, take into consideration of the high speed train coming that we must not delay any longer. Always include roundabouts possibility in newer developments and if possible inserted in older growing area. The one at Oxford 6 and hwy 2. The best investment made in the last 50 years anywhere. The bridge over the tracks in Ingersoll comes second. Those make real differences and supports growth and attracts business because of ease of transportation and less traffic jams benefiting some areas that can now become tourists hubs instead of plugs

Need for ecologists and biologists on staff at all levels of municipal partners. Inventory of green infrastructure in addition to the oxford natural heritage study Implement and exceed recommendations of oxford natural heritage study since it was developed in 2006. Improve affordable housing Need for non smoking/fire community Need multiple heated therapy pools for those with disabilities available at all times during regular operating hours Need to expand scope for those receiving notices of development etc to a minimum of 500 m and where there is a natural area used daily by community members and maintained by those neighbouring landowners a public meeting is required with a minimum of 4 options. Plus 2 weeks notice to provide comments is insufficient Remove need for garbage tags for those households that produce 1 kitchen size bag of garbage a week Improve composting options for county

No I think you hit all the important points and I'm thankful for the opportunity to give feedback. Woodstock is a BEAUTIFUL CITY with fantastic parks, nature trails and the dam. Shopping is limited, CRIME and ADDICTION is horrendous here but if we could resolve these things we would have an AMAZING CITY to call home.

No, but thank you for allowing resident input. I enjoyed reading the "quick facts" in this survey and offering my opinion.

Nobody has extra money for tax hikes so please do whatever it takes to avoid any tax increases whatsoever.

Not happy about more farmland from East Zorra potentially being annexed to Woodstock this week!

Overall good job. Woodstock is a beautiful city. Need to fix the downtown core problem and stop increasing rates especially on the higher value homes in Woodstock. Paying seven and 1/2 to \$8000 in taxes every year is quite a burden especially in retirement.

Oxford County should reduce size of government. Why is there mayor for each zone in Oxford County and staffing for each area. We could operate with 1 Woodstock mayor and 1 Oxford County mayor and remove all the township positions such a waste of taxpayer funding and causes too much red tape. Province did a review and recommendations on this but Oxford County and Woodstock did not enforce this, why? Remove the 2-tier structure and lower-tiers in Oxford County to make us more efficient 1-city, 1-county council for leaner leadership and a amalgamated staffing level is huge cost savings Other Ontario municipalities made these changes and tax payers and citizens are very happy with outcome. Woodstock and Oxford County need to make this change. Keep meetings virtual for county to help reduce costs, travel and meals would be 0 costs to citizens

Part of Ezt. Behind Westwood and Frederick court township is suppose to cut twice a year. I have never seen this. If cannot be cared for properly change to a butterfly and bee ditch

Please add green bin collection, fix the problem of downtown - it was beautiful and now businesses are suffering because of the severe increase in homeless people. The homeless issue is a massive one that has been destroying the community that is Woodstock and it gets worse every single day.

please bring high speed internet to New Road!!! why have we been left out, seems it was put in everywhere else but here! trying to rely on line of sight is so hard and has been a struggle with COVID and working/learning from home. Shouldn't have to be at a disadvantage to those living elsewhere in the county....

Please clean up Woodstock from the homeless & drug addicts (mainly in the downtown core) I don't feel that enabling them with such places for them to hangout & socialize during the day like Trumpet of Truth is helping the situation. River of Life & the Methadone Center Etc. need to be relocated elsewhere

Please cut where you can. With taxes going up, we need to find the savings, and stretch the dollars where we can. Sometimes the little things add up.

Please don't take the money from the proposed landfill to make a better budget. I would rather see a tax hike then a landfill in my community!

Please pave all the roads in the county, it should not be just the townships responsibility. I understand this wouldn't be a 2022 budget item but has any consideration been given to putting another bridge over pittock to line up with the current and future housing development on #17? At the moment you are only connecting the city and that development and the furthest East and West points and #4 and #59 are heavily trafficked during work commute times. It would be beneficial for everyone if the new development were tied directly to the city and it would prevent obvious future reactionary efforts like widening #4 and #59 and twining bridges when traffic becomes gridlock. More over it would save time and money being proactive instead of always reactive.

Please, please, please update the parks in Embro! Our children need something to do. Please fix the fire hydrants. Please make by-law easier to get a hold off. He never calls back and nothing ever gets resolved. I also really wish that atv use in the street was monitored more. You guys are doing a great job and I can't wait for the splash pad!

Really impressed by declarations of interest and commitment to zero waste and zero poverty, but would like to see more direct action - more housing, more income supports, transportation, child care should be funded. Reduce policing and bylaw enforcement and use funds to support people in need.

Reduce tax on farm land. Farmland is overtaxed relative to services received especially when town residents haven't had any tax increase

something more needs to be done regarding the homeless camps, thefts among these groups and drugs. Also I've read about people being harassed in parking lots etc for money and stealing from stores without any consequences

Sound barrier along 401 between exit 230 and exit 232 would improve quality of life. Downtown is a wasteland, we need to get these landlords to lower leases, and clean up the drug addict problem. Loud pickup trucks are a problem. Need family physicians. Costco/Best Buy/Lowe's

Southside active centre expansion. Multipurpose rec facility at fairgrounds or Cowan fields needs to be fast tracked. Corporate sponsorship from major Wdst companies and from developers or future developers.

Taxes should be reduced. As Oxford County is growing it is nice to live in a place that all income groups can afford to live in. The property taxes are way too high and the residents of the county should not be paying for everything. We have the Provincial and Federal governments that are also collecting taxes from us. I am presuming we are living in a developed prosperous country. I am reminded all the time that I should be living within my means.

Thank you for asking. The County and our municipalities have done a good job with 2 of the 3 pillars of community wellbeing - economic development and environment. Community continues to be the pillar undervalued and underfunded. Measurements typically include dollars spent rather than individuals supported and empowered. Individual and group success depends on the health of our communities. A strong community supports people and encourages a mind-set of contribution, shaping all of our lives for better.

Thank you for posting a survey to seek public input.

The city needs to focus on cleaning up the drugies and homeless before anything can be done to "beautify". Temporary fixes don't work. Put lipstick on a pig...it's still a pig!! We are in desperate need of youth services and activities and also an immediate need for QUALITY mental health services. Our options should be more than 1. Talk about your personal problems in front of a group of strangers or 2. Admit yourself and literally get "locked down" with the severely disturbed.

The community pool in Thamesford is essential. More accessible pathways for wheelchair. A river side pathway connecting the Lions Park and Grace Patterson.? A traffic light instead of the crosswalk flashing lights in Thamesford as it is a very congested intersection and some drivers don't pay attention. Although it is much appreciated that we have what we do.

The removal of homeless meth and crackheads from the city entirely

The Thames river runs through Ingersoll and although some parts border on parkland, I believe there are many more opportunities for developing scenic paths and park like zones that follow along the river. Towns like Stratford have done a tremendous job of creating green space along their waterway that has become a very popular place to visit. Ingersoll should consider moving in that direction.

The vaccine roll out has been slow, disjointed and doesn't provide easy access like other municipalities.

There should be a concerted effort to increase assessment (both residential and commercial) in ALL Oxford County communities so as to reduce the overall tax burden. There needs to be consideration of those of us who are on fixed incomes so that the ever increasing taxes charged do not cause excess hardship.

Think out of the box, tiny housing, green spaces that connect small communities to encourage cycling and hiking. Recreation centres and parks that promote health and fitness.

Townships need to run better The salaries are too high and the only way to make this up is to keep taking from tax payers Why is it that fundraising is needed to put in parks and community items when we are paying for this in our taxes. Leadership is needed and changes need to be made for the long term success

Very difficult to find a satisfactory balance between quality and cost when taxes are already high and the needs of the City are even higher.

We absolutely need affordable housing

We have to stop spending taxpayers money like it grows on trees. Someone has to take a stand to stop this continuous increased spending and passing it on to the tax payer without asking ALL taxpayers for input BEFORE spending. I do NOT see any business knowledge in township . It needs to run like a business with consequences for over spending.

We need a mall, fine dining restaurants and a nightclub

We should attract more grocery stores (ex. Food Basics, No Frills) in Tillsonburg. Ideally more programs for moms and tots and more accessible and shady parks near new build neighborhoods (ex. North East St). Community gardens would be wonderful. Collecting compost would reduce garbage waste. Subsidies for all childcare programs -even ones delivered at home, and instructions on how to access these. Thank you
you are doing a terrific job - well done

Plattsville needs a gas station, small grocery store, better walking trail options, better waste management and snow removal.

I feel very passionately that we need a green bin program in this municipality. It is a small way that would divert a lot of waste from the landfill and make residents more aware of their environmental impact

1. Improve the recycling program. 2. Protect environmental areas. 3. Maintain and improve trail systems.

Addition of reliable, affordable high speed internet services to the Bysham Park Business Park area that allows a decent upload and download speed

Taxes shouldn't be increased, with all the people moving to Oxford County, the taxes should be going down.

Overall we have loved living in this community. We plan to stay for quite a while yet and encourage the township to keep reaching out like this for input, thanks!

Make the tax system fairer, those who use more pay more, this is not a socialist country. The tax bill per number of persons in a household is unfairly biased against those with no children or who are socially responsible while those who insist on having twice the nuclear family are bleeding the rest of us dry.

Grade separation on County Rd 4 between Innerkip and Woodstock would be nice. I know that is more of a rail thing, but with the amount of development happening on the Innerkip side of the lake, that rail line will be a large traffic disruption every day.

A splash pad - it's really nice for all families to be able to enjoy a way to cool off. Or initiating more fundraiser programs to towards having one installed.

Have counsel meetings recorded and available for public view

I continue to find it very difficult to know/learn what is going on at Township and County meeting tables...eg decisions made, upcoming items for decision. Meeting minutes are always weeks maybe months behind...if one can find them. Township of Norwich has a tab on it's website..."Newsroom". Why not use that to give a "thumbnail sketch" of what happened at recent meetings?...much like a reporter would make, back in the old days for a local newspaper. I don't see such a tab on Oxford County website but could be included. Include in property tax mail outs specific methods of finding out current/timely decisions being made by both levels ...Township and County. Since we no longer have a township newspaper, distribution of info has to be more creative and on many platforms...Not everyone is on social media sites..older methods still work too. Believe you have to work even harder to be connected to the taxpayers than when everyone got and read the local paper.

Keep being transparent and work with citizens and listen to their concerns, woes and issues. Oxford is a beautiful area. We have family and visitors that say so. I pray that the integrity of the land and of our current services can be upheld. Thank you.

The town of Brownsville desperately needs waste water services!! Our town has a very high water table and incredibly poor soil and creates a lot of problems for our septic systems. People cannot afford to update or replace their septic systems and our properties are not big enough for a modern septic system.

Transportation. With teenage kids and this community between Woodstock and Peach for growing we need the transportation for the city of Woodstock to come out here and not be expensive the same rate that they would pay in town! The bus that comes a Beachville is too expensive

I am proud of how the local governments have worked to defeat the Walker megadump proposal. I think the logical next move would be to make sure that the quarry operator rehabilitates its land as soon as mining operations in that particular pit is finished. As long as there is an empty hole, there will be a chance of Walker reviving its application. If the county needs to set aside some money in its budget to pursue this, that money would be well spent.

Need more ems stations, rotations!!! funding. This is a growing community!!

Great survey, thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback

I've said what I needed to say. Except for one thing. There is a terrible feral cat problem in our area. They are all over the place vomiting up tapeworms and using gardens as toilets, fighting at night and breeding like crazy. How about licensing cats and discouraging people from letting them roam. Even if you catch them you can't get rid of them... no one wants them. It is getting worse all the time.

I was disappointed that there were few opportunities for high school students to earn money this summer. I would like to see a focus on youth to ensure their well-being coming out of the pandemic

Stop throwing money away by buying more land. Focus on what is already acquired and make it usable first.

The increase in petty theft is getting out of control. I can't believe how much this has changed in a few short years.

Those on low income and fixed income such as seniors need further consideration from more affordable housing to discounts on electricity and water services.

Tillsonburg is growing at a rapid pace. Please ensure the infrastructure keeps up to the same pace.

Please read my comments about sidewalks missing in our neighbourhood and how this affects the safety of the young and old. Thank you for your consideration of this matter as you plan your budget. Cheers [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Parkwood Drive Tillsonburg

Maintenance on trails and keeping dirt bikes, 4 wheelers and snowmobiles off trail in town limits

I live in Hickory Hills. Baldwin St. is very busy traffic wise and I feel a stop light is necessary. Coming and going from Hickory Hills is resulting in long waits with a lot of traffic on Baldwin flying up the hill well over the speed limit. I'm concerned that older seniors are going to get hurt or worse unless they don't put a Stoplight at Baldwin/Wilson. Please give this some much needed consideration.

I NEED SOMEWHERE AFFORDABLE AND SAFE TO LIVE!!! I grew up here. I want to stay! But every day it looks like I will have to join the Exodus to the east coast. And frankly. That's depressing.

Thank you for this opportunity - we will study the actual budget in order to become better acquainted with it. There was some really good information in this survey presentation...will it be available anywhere eg in PDF format so it can be referred to after (eg. the breakdowns by service, % and \$\$ relative to assessed value) that was really valuable information.

The town needs to stop building condos and single family dwellings. Everything that makes Tillsburg a small town atmosphere is being lost with the addition of hundreds of homes in new subdivisions. There is no green space left. Also, would like to see the town focus on making experiences at ball diamonds better for everyone. washroom facilities rather than jimmy jones at the hard ball diamonds are necessary for a better experience for both players and fans. If they host high caliber baseball, they should also be able to offer a facility to wash their hands and flush a toilet.

Social services should be geared to helping people learn new skills, rehabilitation, find jobs, get healthy, become productive... teach them.

Plan it, budget for it, disregard paid lunches, these should be abolished on tax payers dollars, disregard any gift handed out at meetings, go back to the old days when you were paid to do a job and not get incentives to do so

Please consider curbside compost.

Invest in video cameras for strategic downtown locations to support crime investigations, reactions to know when gatherings are happening.

Slow growth in the city as nothing good comes from growing too quickly.

Please do something to help with the homelessness/thefts/drugs. I'm afraid to take my kids to Southside Park.

higher speed limits

Too many Woodstock and County employees got their hands in the public coffers. Needs to be cleaned up.

We need a safer city. Criminals have taken over the city and the downtown. We don't go downtown any more and even grocery stores you get asked for money all the time from homeless people.

stop overcharging for taxes on properties. stop letting slum landlords let their yards become overgrown with weeds and junk on their property. Use our tax money to pay for the garbage pickup stop the tag crap. This is the only place, I have lived that has the highest taxes per capita and has to pay for garbage pick up.

People are angry. I read it everyday. I am angry that for the exorbitant taxes we as citizens get little in return except cries of "poor us". Housing has gone up, every year there are surveys but nothing is done. There are slews of homeless, every night homes and cars are bombed by thieves. People don't feel safe. Give people affordable housing, good services and safety and you will have satisfied citizens. Even renters pay taxes through their landlords and on income tax. Make this the last survey and listen to people.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. I appreciate it!

Given higher taxes in Oxford/City of Woodstock when compared to other regions in Ontario and residents still unable to find family/specialty physicians, paying for water softener systems, garbage tags and not even getting fees wading pools for kids - I believe there's scope of improvement. With house pricing nearing Toronto/peel region and given extra cost of taxes, etc. with less benefits compared to those regions people will soon start moving back to urban areas if things aren't taken into consideration!!

\$1000 tax on a 250,000\$ property..... now how much on a \$1M property.. have ya seen the real estate market?! I'm 26 yrs and will never be able to afford 1 a house and 2 the taxes....

Your budgets go up ,my taxes go up, but my income stays the same Hmmm.

We really would like to see a fenced in dedicated dog park in Tavistock

Personally I would like to see a 4 way stop at Main and Queen sts. in Innerkip. bike lanes on #4 would be good as well.

Let's seem some leadership and impact change in Oxford county. We need to set new priorities that help the community become better and attract more growth. We need a better plan and a longer term budget planning process. I would prefer increasing technology and becoming more of a smart city where on demand services become more service oriented. Also there is an explosion of rodents and invasive species. The county needs a plan and how to reduce and provide support services in this area.

Reduce Taxes Give breaks to the elderly, they didn't work hard all their life to worry about losing their house because of the high taxes. My opinion.

I'm mostly concerned about excessive speeding throughout the county, and increased traffic volume from new housing developments (parts of Woodstock are now crazy busy, as is Hwy 19 between Ingersoll and Tillsonburg). Even Norwich and Otterville area roads are getting busier. The county needs less huge detached dwellings built. Rather the area needs more small dwellings that are affordable as a starter home, and ideally are close to public transport or accessible to services by walking and cycling.

Take back 1/2 the council wages during all of Covid. Same with the teachers. Your all a bunch of crooks. You could cut council by 75 percent and still do the same job you're doing now.

I know that some think that the Thamesford Arena should be replaced. I'm concerned about what the cost will be to each home owner, since many of us rarely, if ever, attend events held at the arena.

Absolutely not in favour of the dump. Wanted to make that my first priority but wasn't available to choose. It should be put to public vote.

Urban sprawl must be slowed down. Not enough high density structures are being built. Make sure all land within city limits are used to the maximum and limit the development of Canada's best agricultural land. It is not a unlimited resource!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Regarding my participation in this survey, I have tried to be as thoughtful as I could in my remarks. I don't know to what degree the comments will be considered to be budget-related. But hopefully they will make a positive difference somehow.

More effort into creative thinking & planning to provide affordable housing.

Park equipment should be maintained in the smaller neighbourhood parks. They are used a lot and some need some upgrades to keep them safe. What about some natural features as well like wood cookies from cut trees for a pathway. It's nice to have butterfly gardens and boxes too where a neighbourhood could be organized to do the plantings. Natural playgrounds provide a lot of learning for our children. Thanks so much for caring!

What about questions about the public schools? Lack lustre at best for community support and engagement.

I don't know if the town of Tillsonburg is responsible for the lighting of the town during the Christmas season, it leaves a lot to be desired. It would be nice if the whole downtown was lit up to make it a destination for people to come and see. Good for the restaurant business too.

Tillsonburg should provide accommodation like quality hotel as well as fine dining for guests from in own and out of town. Create a charming and welcoming downtown for all by implementing a sustainable and permanent tree planting with flowers and shrubs in the centre of Broadway and allocate parking parallel to the curb allowing cars to drive away safely. Re-route transport truck away from the downtown Also build to own a proper city hall to be proud of and bring under one roof all the services that the town of Tillsonburg provides. Provide horse stalls around town, comfortable and pleasant for the horses. Why so many cannabis stores in a small town?

My families 3 top priorities are: 1. Adding green compost bins to weekly curbside garbage pickup. Charging more for garbage bags to promote more recycling/compost use. 2. Commitment to protecting green space and trails including limiting future development near forests and planting more trees. 3. Adding recycling bins to all public garbage bins in public areas.

Keep up the good work. I am proud to call Tillsonburg my home. Thankyou to all of you that work to keep Tillsonburg and Oxford county the great place to live that it is!

Spend it as if it was your money and you are trying to get value for your money.not sure our mayor has any idea what that means.

My sidewalk is cleared 3-4 days after a snowfall while Hickory Hills and area are done the same day. Why do they get preferential treatment?

As previously mentioned, we are very concerned with all the 'Affordable Housing' being build around town and the 'undesirables' that are moving into our town. Property standards needs to address some of the 'eye sores' around town; again they pull down property values. The number of 'pot stores' and activity at the OATC centre is alarming. These businesses do nothing to enhancing life for the majority of residents and it will only lead to the requirement for more policing and its associated expense.

In my opinion, strong looks into how the County will manage vulnerable populations as we continue to grow as a region is at the top of the list of concerns, and in need of strong leadership and an adequate budget.

No matter what we all just be very responsible with our money so be wise make good decisions and hopefully we will all be happy.

Only speaking for the Town of Tillsonburg. Accountability, training and high standards for customer service needs to be reviewed. The community centre has been closed, from my understanding not one full time staff member that is employed by the Town has been laid off. A great deal of our community members have lost income during the past 18 months while our tax dollars continue to pay full time staff for working from home. I can appreciate some staff were needed, but seriously, "planning programs" for 18 months to not open the community centre/customer service centre is uncalled for. The staff from the town are for the most part unapproachable, rude and not held accountable. It feels there is a great lack of communication between the town and the community. Again, simply my opinion.

Please consider the above statements I have made in this survey. It would be considerate of you to meditate on some of these proposals. Sometimes it helps to look at other towns and see how they are doing, and what works for the general public. Example, St Thomas has 2 beautiful parks... The public needs more exposure on a social level, example. With new construction, i.e. apartment building, allow for a common room in order to people to socialize and get to know each other. There is a lot of loneliness, in that these people have lost love ones and need interaction with those in similar circumstances. More park benches in and out of doors (Walmart) With an ageing population, this is most necessary. Enhance your parks, play areas for kids and adults to encourage health and exercise. Thanking you in advance, [REDACTED]

Reduce Administrative costs by merging number of municipalities. Having CAO's to bring recommendations back to Council was self serving. Council are elected to lead. Time to do li!

The students hired by the city to work for the summer should be payed minimum wage paying people to water flowers is wasteful . Hiring is done solely by nepotism.its awful . For each student hired should be paired with socially economically disadvantaged students.

Thank you for all that you do Woodstock and Oxford Staff!

-Paramedics funding should be matched with fire and police. paramedics are becoming increasingly need; we should be supporting their community programs as my family used their palliative care program. -option for reduced taxes for those in private scho

no

We need to help our seniors be independent longer and stay home with the care they need and DESERVE. Support them in every step of the way. It is our turn to help them after all that they have done for us. We don't treat them with dignity and respect.

Move to single tier governance and operations

I just need to address a few issues that needs to start somewhere and possibly get moved to someone else's department or a budget issue of sorts for a more presence of a bylaw officer or possibly delegate senior park employee to address these issues as they are a constant observed source as they drive from a area to other, giving their job more authority to keep our parks beautiful and pride of the job they do for the city Businesses with tattered and torn Canadian Flags or the business flag? - what happens or how did it happen that people have forgotten to walk or ride a bicycle on the proper side of the road ? The use of bike or motorcycle helmet.? . Using a park or side of sidewalk for pet pooping, without picking it up? Throwing garbage out car windows on roads or park grounds? When there is a garbage can within steps away. Not taking care of your property letting grass get a foot high, and attracting Rats another huge problem in the City ? garbage bags ripped on curb side and leaving trash blow down the street Cutting gears and raking leaves to the road, rather then bagging into take to James Street? Parking vehicles on the yard meanwhile the driveway is empty? A disabled vehicle with tires so flat the front bumper is sitting on the driveway? Not able to read signs that direct No parking on this side of the street ? In fact some sighs need replacement please

We need more infant daycare options, the wait list to get into a certified daycare that is not in a private home is too long. We need more midwives in town. There is only one in town that will take on patients and due to our distance to all other hospitals we have no other option, midwives from other cities will not take patients from Woodstock due to the distance from that city's hospital. Not everyone wants an OB or aligns with their care. And it is extremely challenging for us to get into the care of a midwife.

Many of the issues I've already outlined. If we deal with the 'affordable housing' issue, we would put a large dent in the other issues socially. Oxford county, especially Woodstock does not have a rent cap. We are now paying over \$2,200/month for a 3 bedroom where 2 years ago it was only \$1500. When families have to work 3 jobs to put food on the table (which is also increasing in price), it makes the idea of homelessness that much more real for everyone. Individuals in a geared to income housing situation are forced to remain there due to unaffordable housing options elsewhere. By doing so, it increases the wait lists and potential homes for those in need, thus increasing homelessness, addictions, and mental health issues.

I'm proud to live in Woodstock. It's clean & beautiful (flower beds especially)