

From: "McCarthy, Margaret" <mmccarthy@hamilton.ca>
To: <dmcguinty@premier.gov.on.ca>
Date: Fri, 2 May 2008 12:26:25 -0400
Subject: Flamborough Tax Increase of 9.9%

Dear Premier McGuinty:

On May 7th I found it necessary to call a public meeting in response to the outrage and frustration of Flamborough taxpayers as a result of Hamilton City Council passing the 2008 budget which contains a **tax increase for Flamborough of 9.9% as compared to the following breakdown:**

Glanbrook	2.3%
Stoney Creek	2.5%
Dundas	2.6%
Hamilton	3.1%
Ancaster	4.8%
Flamborough	9.9%

Flamborough's substantial increase is the result of Council's last minute decision to place the Flamborough Slot revenue into the general tax levy instead of helping, as occurred in the previous year, to offset our substantial increase in tax. The full amount of the slot money going to the City of Hamilton reduces the Hamilton average tax by \$16.00 per household, while increasing Flamborough's taxes by an average of \$400.00 per household based on the average price of a home in Flamborough.

My community since amalgamation has been faced with the highest tax increases, and now this latest vote is seen as high handed and unfair. This has forced me to seek your assistance to remedy this inequitable tax increase. In these circumstances, I feel it necessary to ask you to intervene on my community's behalf, to arrange a more equitable tax rate for Flamborough.

In addition to the above the removal of area rating in our tax structure is also being threatened by Hamilton City Council. The issue of area rating will be debated by Hamilton City Council in June, 2008. If area rating is removed, my community will see an extra 10% increase in addition to the already extremely heavy tax burden.

We seek your good offices in finding a solution to these matters.

Sincerely,

Margaret McCarthy, Flamborough Councillor Ward 15
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