

# **Municipality of Pontiac**

## **2012 budget, average tax increase under 2%**

### **Mo Laidlaw**

Mayor Eddie McCann presented the 2012 budget of \$6.1 million at a meeting held on 21 December 2011. It was adopted unanimously by council. The general tax rate increases 0.45%, from 0.6232 to 0.6260 per \$100 of evaluation. Service charges for garbage have increased by 30% (\$50 for residences) and (only for Quyon residents) water charges are up 30% and sewer charges up 9%.

The mayor explained that MRC costs have gone up 14%, with police and waste management showing the biggest increases. The municipality's contribution is based on total evaluation which is now \$567 million, up 2.3%. The MRC budget is not yet available online.

### **Taxes payable**

The average evaluation for a residence in the municipality is \$200,000. A house in Quyon, evaluated at \$174,000, will pay \$1,185.64 in taxes, \$195.62 for sewer charge, \$247.43 for mains water supply, and \$216.62 for garbage fee (pickup, disposal, and recycling) for a total of \$1,845.31.

For a residential property elsewhere in Pontiac, with a well and septic system, valued at \$257,000, the total bill, including garbage fee, will be \$1,825.44, plus additions to pay for paving in some sectors. There is no septic system inspection fee this year.

Tax bills over \$300 may be paid in three instalments on 1 March, 1 June and 1 October 2010.

### **Where the money goes**

Spending on Transport (roads, snow clearing etc) is up 4%, to \$1.84 million (the same as in 2009).

Public security (fire, police, and animal control) is up 8.8% to \$1,541,674 (again about the same as in 2009).

The public health budget is up 20% to \$991,879. This includes water and sewers as well as garbage and recycling.

General administration is up 6% to \$955,531

Town planning, zoning and development costs are up 1% to \$415,051.

Costs for arts and recreation, which includes parks, libraries and community centres, are down 12% to \$297,441, down for the second year running.

Annual interest on loans to pay for paving roads, the sewage lagoon, fire trucks, grader and so on, amounts to \$239,505, up 21%.

Other local administrations have seen larger tax increases. In the city of Gatineau taxes are up 2.2%, in Cantley the increase is 2% plus the garbage fee up \$20, with taxes in Chelsea up 5.5%.

### **Projects for 2012**

Completing the drinking water project in Quyon.

Buying another fire truck.

The Chats Falls park (Parc du Sault-des-Chats).

Septic sludge treatment at the sewage lagoon in Quyon.