

**SOCIAL WORK
OPENS DOORS**



**March is National
Social Work Month**

This March, we invite you to learn more about how #SocialWorkOpensDoors for people across Ontario

OPENING DOORS IN

Woolwich, Wellesley & Wilmot

#SocialWorkOpensDoors



Ontario's #1 Weekly Community Newspaper

OBSERVER

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This Weekend

Friday 9°

Saturday 9°

Sunday 5°



Living Here | 20

WOOLWICH COUNCIL

Woolwich tax increase among highest of area municipalities

Julian Gavaghan

Observer Staff

WOOLWICH'S PROPERTY TAX INCREASE THIS year is among the highest in southern Ontario, an Observer investigation reveals.

The municipality last month approved a hike of 8.7 per cent for the township portion of residents' bills, which represents an additional \$93 extra for the average household.

Among 45 municipalities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe area that The Observer examined, the only councils that raised their rates by more were nearby Wilmot at 10.8 per cent, Toronto at 9.5 per cent, and Halton Hills at nine per cent.

By comparison, Barrie froze the city portion of its property tax rate, Clarington's increase was just 1.5 per cent and Mississauga's was 2.3 per cent.

The average increase among the 45 municipalities was 5.2 per cent, which is still almost double the annual inflation rate, which currently stands at 2.9 per cent and is expected to fall.

The ten highest rate increases among those examined are listed below along with the average bills their residents can now expect to pay this year:

Highest rate increases

Municipality	Tax increase	Average 2024 bill
Wilmot	10.8%	\$4,463
Toronto	9.5%	\$5,510
Halton Hills	9.0%	\$5,245
Woolwich	8.7%	\$4,400
Guelph	8.5%	\$5,375
Centre Wellington	7.4%	\$4,039
Peterborough	7.4%	\$4,231
Brampton	6.6%	\$6,259
Ajax	6.3%	\$6,046
Waterloo	6.1%	\$5,175

Only three of Waterloo Region's seven municipalities increased their rate by less than the 5.2 per cent average: North Dumfries at 4.2 per cent, Kitchener at 3.9 per cent and Wellesley at 3.6 per cent.

In Woolwich, property tax bills are based on three separate charges, which are percentages levied against the assessed value of homes, which is called a mill rate.

→ TAXES 5



Firefighters from Elmira, Conestogo, St. Jacobs and Floradale converged Mar. 8 on a Jigs Hollow farm, where a blaze levelled a barn. No one was injured, and the cattle were evacuated safely. No cause has been determined. **Steve Kannon**

Wellesley designates a stretch of Maplewood Rd. as community safety zone

Bill Atwood

Observer Staff

RESIDENTS OF MAPLEWOOD ROAD SOUTH of St. Clements can expect to see some traffic-calming measures now that Wellesley council is on board.

Meeting Tuesday night, councillors voted unanimously to designate a portion of the road as a community safety zone. The stretch will run from 415 metres south of Hessen Strasse to 650 metres north of Weimar Line.

Paradise Lake resident Caressa Madison addressed councillors about speeding on the road, a problem described in a staff report recommending the township take action.

"Over the years, I know many of my neighbours have also reached out about their concerns regarding speeding on Maplewood," said Madison, who has lived on the street for nearly 30 years.

"Since the south end of Maplewood was paved a number of years ago, it has become quite a thoroughfare and because we have no sidewalks, trails, bike lanes or even shoulders for most of the road, it can be quite dangerous when a car is

→ SAFETY ZONE 4

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