

Caledon citizens invited to engage in the 2017 budget process

It's municipal budget season.

The Town of Caledon has a 2017 draft budget prepared, and a number of presentations are planned to engage the public in the process before the budget's anticipated adoption, set for Dec. 20. Open houses, council presentations, one-on-one forums with senior town staff and, of course, online input are options for residents to participate in the budget process.

"The 2017 budget process is underway and the Town is offering great opportunities for Caledon citizens to be involved during this important planning period," Mayor Allan Thompson said.

"This budget aligns with the Council Work Plan," he added. "Council created a comprehensive Work Plan to guide our activities and budgeting priorities. We asked questions and listened to feedback. We determined priorities based on input from the community, staff and council. On behalf of council and staff, I encourage and welcome all residents to collaborate on the 2017 budget."

The Town will be hosting an open house Nov. 23 at Town Hall in Caledon East, starting at 7 p.m. Town staff from each department will be available in an open house forum for one-on-one discussion. Small group or individual discussions are a great way to get involved and understand details of projects that will guide Town activities.

There are also Coffee with Council sessions in the works. This is an opportunity to have a conversation with the Mayor and councillors on municipal matters, including the budget.

Sessions are planned for Nov. 18 at Mayfield Recreation Centre from 5 to 7 p.m.; Nov. 19 at Lloyd Wilson Arena from 9 to 11 a.m., and Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness from 1 to 3 p.m.; and Nov. 22 at Bolton Rotary Senior's Centre from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The budget will also be discussed at several meetings of council, including Nov. 15 at 9:30 a.m. (operating budget) and 1 p.m. (capital budget), Dec. 6 at 1 p.m. and Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

Residents wishing to appear before council to share concerns or ask questions are invited to attend the Dec. 6 meeting at Town Hall. Note that all meetings are open to the public and that Town Hall and the council chambers are fully accessible and inclusive spaces.

All information on the 2017 budget will be posted on the Town's website at caledon.ca/budget

Those who have questions about the budget, but cannot attend one of the meetings in-person, are welcome to email them to the Town at budget@caledon.ca