

## Peeved at tax increase

To the Editor,

The following letter was sent to members of Hastings Highlands council.

3.6 per cent ... really?

I am writing to you to express my absolute dismay at the proposed tax increase of 3.6 per cent on properties in Hastings Highlands. I cannot get my head around how you folks can even bring yourselves to consider anywhere near that amount as an increase! And, for what? As you are being constantly reminded there is no value for service even without any increase. We have lost curbside garbage pickup; we constantly fight to have our garbage dump hours maintained if not added to because of the loss of curbside pickup; the state of road repair is becoming a dangerous joke; my taxes in Hastings Highlands are higher than in Guelph and this for far fewer supplied services, i.e. water, sewer, etc. In addition, at the rate you are going you will run me out of money from my pension before I run out the need for my pension. Take a look on the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan site as to the increase in my pension! At 1.7 per cent it is less than 50 per cent of your proposed tax increase. When does this stop! And can someone please confirm for me that you budgeting for a 2 per cent increase for municipal employees ? can someone please give their heads a shake!

Finally, I was present at last year's council meeting where the recommended base rate was increased by 1.5% by the treasurer in order to build a fund for infrastructure (road construction). As I read this year's increase we are compounding this additional increase. I ask: how and why? Finally, where is the money that was budgeted for garbage pickup for last year? You keep being asked about this money but I don't remember ever reading a reply.

Bob Tatarski