



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release  
May 19, 2009**

### **COUNTY RESIDENTS WILL SEE A TAX RATE INCREASE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 13 YEARS**

**ANNAPOLIS CO.** – On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Municipal Council approved a \$0.03 cent increase to the residential tax rate. The decision will bring the residential tax rate to \$0.98 cents/\$100 assessment from \$0.95 cents/\$100 assessment. The Commercial tax rate will remain the same at \$1.80/\$100 assessment.

“We have not had a tax rate increase in 13 years,” said Annapolis County Warden Peter Newton. “This was not easy; Council felt it was very important to maintain the existing programs and services offered to our residents, and in order to ensure this would happen an increase to the residential tax rate was necessary.” There were no new programs introduced this year.

In addition to the challenge of maintaining the County services and programs, Council was also firm in addressing a concern brought forth by residents throughout the past year. Many citizens expressed discontent with the \$9 assessment fee, and had asked that this fee be reflected in the general tax rate rather than a separate fee. In response to this request, Council has removed the separate \$9 assessment fee.

Warden Newton also noted that over 50% of the operating budget is determined by the Province, education, RCMP, Regional library, to name a few items, which Council has no power over.

With the incorporation of the new tax rate, the cost increase for a resident may resemble this - The average house in Annapolis County is assessed at \$75,000, at this assessment the homeowner’s residential tax rate would increase by \$22.50; however, with the removal of the \$9 assessment fee the increase would only be \$13.50.

“It was a difficult decision,” admitted Warden Newton. “However, we had to do what we thought was in the best interest of the people we represent, and keeping the programs and services that will maintain the excellent quality of life we have come to expect in Annapolis County was essential in determining the decision.”

The 2009 tax bills, which are scheduled to be mailed out around mid June, will reflect the tax rate. The deadline for payment will be July 31<sup>st</sup>.

-30-

Contact: Warden Peter Newton  
532-3137

**FOR BROADCAST USE:**

For the first time in 13 years Annapolis County residents will see an increase in their tax rate.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Municipal Council approved a \$0.03cent increase to the residential tax rate bringing the rate to \$0.98 cents/\$100 assessment from \$0.95 cents/\$100 assessment. The Commercial tax rate will remain the same at \$1.80/\$100 assessment.

Annapolis County Warden Peter Newton admitted it was a difficult decision, but he said Council felt it was very important to maintain the existing programs and services offered to residents, and in order to ensure this would happen an increase to the residential tax rate was necessary. It was also noted that over 50% of the operating budget is determined by the Province, education, RCMP, Regional library, to name a few items, which Council has no power over.

The 2009 tax bills, which are scheduled to be mailed out around mid June, will reflect the tax rate. The deadline for payment will be July 31<sup>st</sup>.