



Port Hoppers for Fair Taxes

Presentation to: *Rural Action Working Group*

September 3, 2015

Fair taxes for all Port Hoppers



Tonight:

- PHFFT background, and who we are
- PHFFT's objectives generally
- Objectives for this meeting
- Some facts and myths
- Leave you with seven questions

Facebook: facebook.com/PortHoppersForFairTaxes

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All of our presentations are available at:

www.porthopecommunitygroups.org/porthopersforfairtaxes

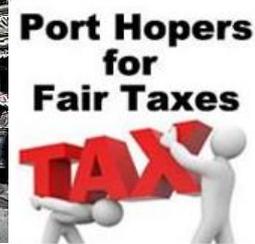
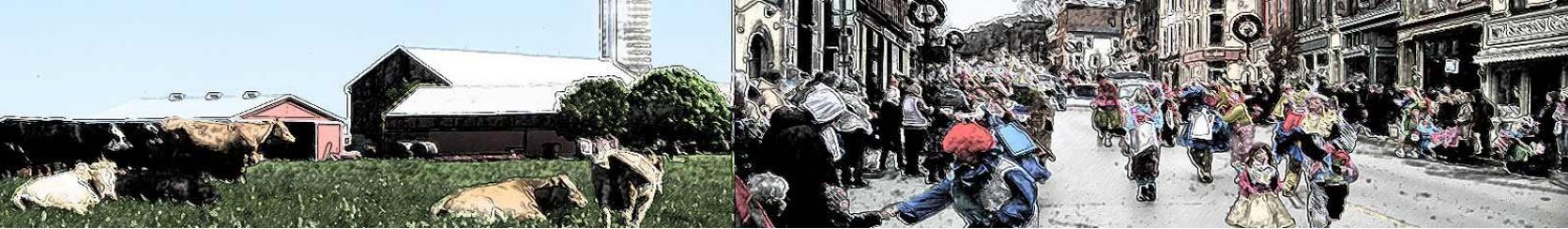




Port Hoppers for Fair Taxes:

- Formed following the Council appointed Area Rating Working Group dissolution (October 2013)
- Ian Angus, Rick Norman, Bill Bickle (ARWG)
- Christine Collie-Rowland, Dennis & Janet Waddington
- Support from the community

PHFFT's Objectives

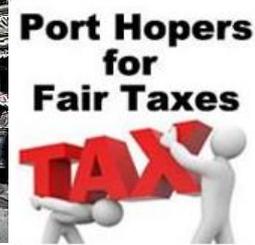


PHFFT's Continuing Objectives:

- 1) Fair taxes for all Port Hope residents, farms and businesses
- 2) Reverse the 37% tax-increase decision, April 2014
- 3) Obtain MPH expenses by ward
- 4) Recover Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) fund

*Our issue is not over-spending.
Our objective is fair distribution
regardless of spending levels*

Meeting Objectives



Meeting Objectives:

INFORM

Present facts, information and how Area Rating works

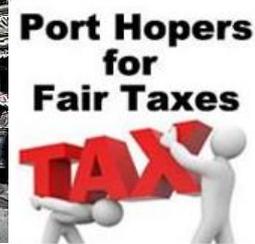
CLARIFY

Clear up misconceptions, dispel myths, common agreement on base measures

EQUIP

Some of the questions requiring answers, keep the conversation going

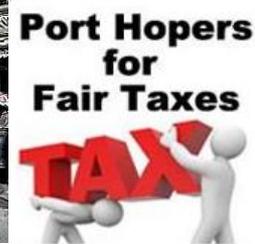
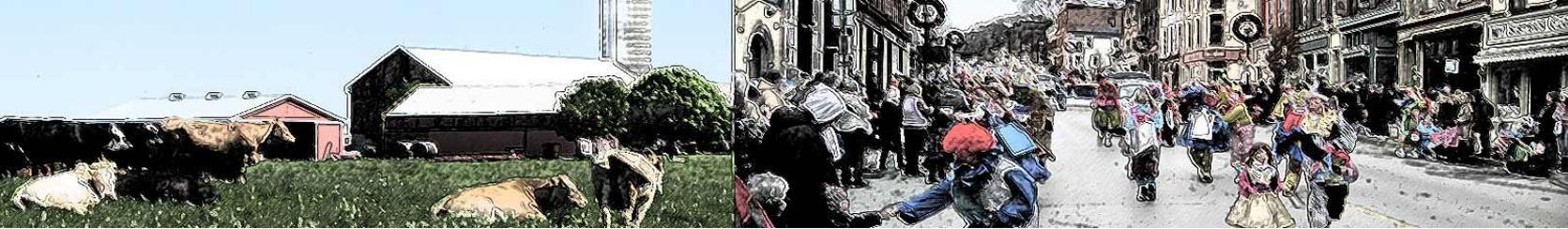
Facts & figures



Facts:

- Distribution of tax-burden (*including long standing policy*)
- Tax increases (*not just 37%*)
- Taxes per household (*vs per \$100,000 assessment*)
- Need for data by ward (*before we'll know what's fair*)
- Need a community-engagement process (*Focus Group*)

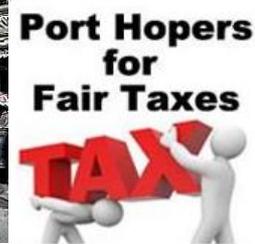
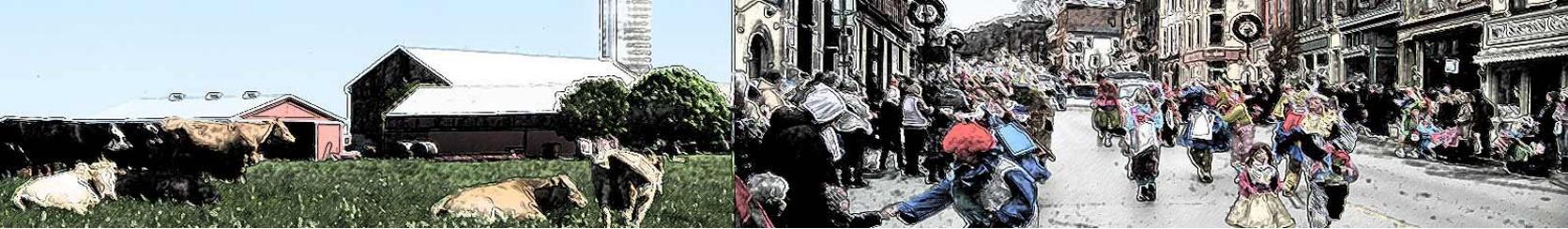
More facts



More Facts:

- Prior to Amalgamation, Hope's share was roughly 15% of total expenses from the two municipalities
- There are several ratios that support roughly 15/85
- If regular reviews had taken place, they may well have concluded there should have been no change in the distribution of tax-burden from the 85/15 split

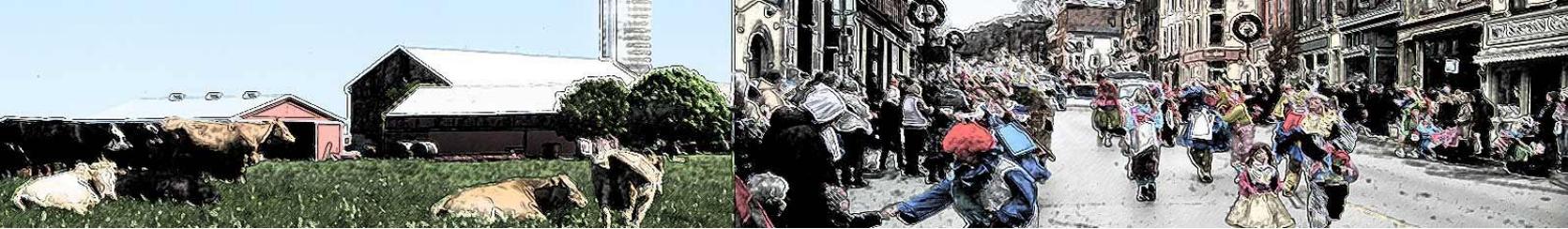
How Area Rating works



Clarifications (myth-busting):

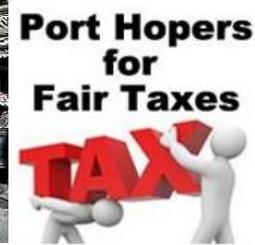
- Myths from the Area Rating Working Group
- How Area Rating can work effectively (and fairly and equitably)
- LLRW ownership, use of funds, and full accounting for withdrawals to date

Let's look at each



Myths after Area Rating Working Group

- Amalgamation Formula non-compliant
- Hope Twp wasn't paying its share because Port Hope's taxes are the highest in the County, and Hope's are the lowest
- Hope needs to pay more than 15% because it enjoys more than 15% of the benefits from the services provided



LLRW Funds:

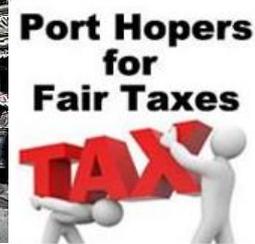
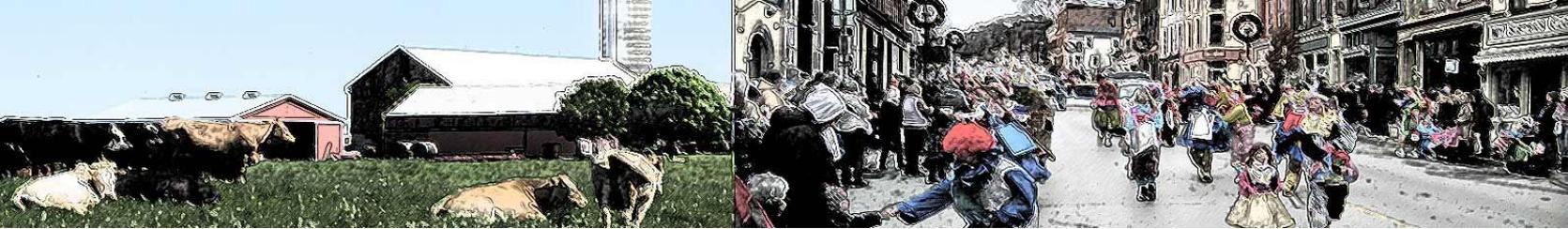
- Hope's funds to be held in trust for residents, never the property of the Municipality
- Board Order: use only for Hope Township, and only for defrayment of taxes
- Former Town of Port Hope: same usage restriction, but not defrayment of taxes
- \$4,584,289 of interest has been withdrawn – some for building equipment & reserves (\$550,589 in March 2015 without Council minutes showing authorization appearing on the web-site)
- On March 11, 2014, Council passed a motion that a full accounting be posted on the municipal website (as soon as possible) of withdrawals and use for both funds



25/2014 [resolution]

3. The year-end reports on the usage of the interest since the inception of the two LLRW funds, outlining such details as the type of equipment purchased, projects funded (studies, building construction &/or repairs, land acquisitions, etc.) direct application to reduce the levy in both Wards, and transfers to specific Building and Equipment reserves.

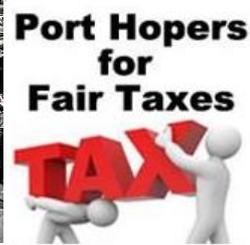
CARRIED



Principles of Area Rating

- All costs start from the position of area-ratable
 - Even untracked costs can be allocated (e.g. library hours or number of parks)
- Distinct service-levels deem a service a “special service”
- Costs are area-rated if the level of service is distinct
- A service is special if any of the following conditions apply

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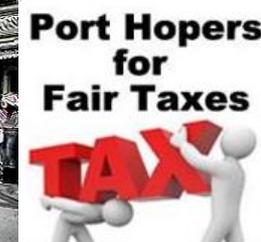


Principles of Area Rating, cont'd

Conditions for “Special Service”

- Is the service provided throughout the Municipality?
- Is the service undertaken generally throughout the Municipality?
- Is the service being provided or undertaken at the same level throughout the Municipality?
- Is the service being provided in the same manner throughout the Municipality?

Some myths dispelled



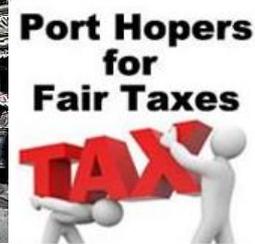
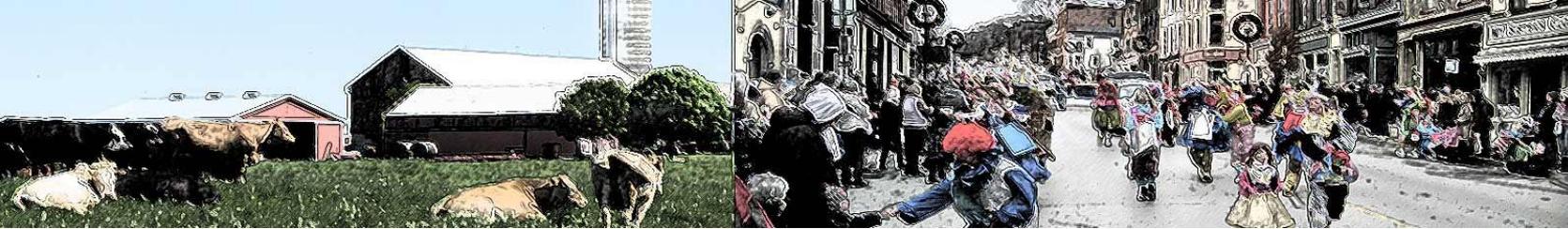
Service	Is the Service Provided Throughout the Municipality	Is the Service Undertaken Generally Throughout the Municipality	Is the Service Being Provided or Undertaken at the Same Level Throughout the Municipality	Is the Service Being Provided in the Same Manner Throughout the Municipality	Could the Service be Considered a Potential Special Service (Sec 326)	Fair & Equitable	Significant	Implementable	Justifiable & Defendable	Details
Administration										
Town Hall										
Fire & Emergency										
Parks, Rec & Cult										
Cemeteries										
Ruth Clarke										
Marina										
Harbour Dredging										

PLUS: Economic Development & Tourism; Business Park; Policing; Police Services Board; Roads; Engineering; Transit; Sidewalk Maintenance; Streetlights; Bulky Waste/Christmas Tree Pickup; Catch Basins; Crossing Guards; Street Sweeping; Planning & Development; Parking; Library (2 branches)



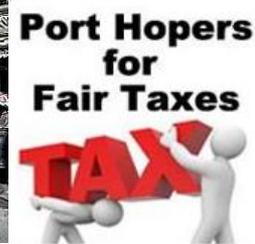
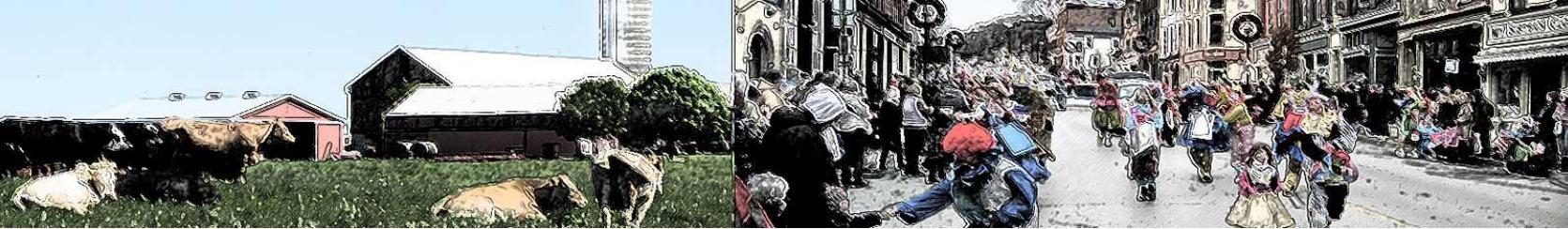
Community Engagement (broad public discussion)

- 1) RAWG frames how public to discuss
- 2) Line item budget provided to public
- 3) Facilitated Information-sessions
- 4) Community decisions on Special & Common



Seven Questions require answers:

- 1) When will Finance collect departmental operating expenses by ward?
- 2) Who will take charge of the process to engage the public that will result in a publicly supported Area Rating system?
- 3) When will Council once again recognize the long standing policy that was in effect from 2001 to 2012, as stated in the annual tax-rating by-laws, that precludes shifts of tax-burden between wards?



- 4) Where does the money from Development Charges end up?
- 5) When will Council and the public receive the full accounting for the withdrawals of interest from the LLRW funds, per Council's resolution 25/2014 in March 2014?
- 6) When will Council and the public be informed of the nature of the \$550,589 withdrawn from the Hope LLRW Fund in the first quarter of 2015?
- 7) When will the MPH web-site include the Operating Budget in the long form for 2014 and 2015 as requested by Council in 2014?