June 25, 2014

Dear Resident,

Tay Valley Township needs your help!

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is proposing to significantly change the way in which it bills for policing services in communities served by the OPP. Currently, the OPP bill is based on a deployment model that reflects a municipality’s actual crime rate. This is a user pay system that we believe is fair.

The proposed model calls for a per-household cost as well as a cost per call for service. The local implications of this model will likely result in Township policing costs climbing from $485,000 to $1,380,000 annually translating into a property tax increase of more than 20%!

We believe the proposed Billing Model is fundamentally flawed for the following reasons:

• Using households to allocate costs is wrong because households are not cost drivers of all crime in a community;
• This proposal excludes the Commercial, Industrial and Institutional sectors of communities where crime happens, and places the burden on household-heavy communities like ours;
• It is built on a base rate for all municipalities regardless of police resources used and is unfair to rural townships with lower crime rates.

Tay Valley Township Council has been working together with our neighbours in Drummond/North Elmsley, Lanark Highlands, Beckwith, and Montague Townships along with South, Central and North Frontenac Townships on this important issue since November 2013. We have been calling on the OPP and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to reconsider or modify the proposed funding model. Our continued collective efforts through letters to the Premier, various MPPs, a face-to-face discussion with OPP representatives, and a delegation with the Minister and senior OPP officials at a recent conference have been to no avail.

To help strengthen our arguments, please consider writing a letter or sending an email to explain how a 20% increase in property taxes will impact you and/or your business to the Premier and to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services. Contact information can be found on the reverse of this letter. If you are a seasonal resident, you may also wish to include a copy of your letter to the MPP in the riding in which you vote provincially.

Please visit the Proposed OPP Billing page at www.tayvalleytwp.ca for further information and see samples of letters that can help you craft your personal message. We ask that you contact Premier Wynne and/or the Minister responsible for the OPP (Yasir Naqvi) as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Keith Kerr, Reeve
CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Honourable, Yasir Naqvi
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