

REPORT

Council

Meeting Date: April 24, 2023

FROM: Finance Department

DATE: April 11, 2023

SUBJECT: 2023 Tax Rebate for Eligible Senior Property Owners By-law
2023-032

LOCATION: Town-wide

WARD: Town-wide

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RECOMMENDATION:

That by-law 2023-032, a by-law to authorize a 2023 tax rebate to eligible senior property owners, as attached to the report of the Finance department, be passed.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- An annual by-law is required so that eligible senior property owners may apply and receive a tax rebate.

BACKGROUND:

The Town makes use of Section 365 of the *Municipal Act* to provide an annual tax rebate to eligible seniors. As approved by Council, this legislation allows for the proportional sharing of costs associated with the rebate program between the Town, Region and school boards.

By adopting this option, each year the Town passes a by-law and administers the rebate program; however, the Town is limited to a share of approximately 41% of the total cost of providing the rebates. The Region and school boards absorb the balance of the program costs.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Staff is recommending the eligible household rebate continue at \$500 in 2023, unchanged from the rebate offered in 2022. The annual rebate is in line with those offered by the other municipalities within the Region, with the exception of the Town of Milton that does not offer a senior's rebate program.

The format and eligibility requirements contained in By-law 2023-032 reflect those of the 2022 by-law with respect to the tax rebate. There are three changes to this year's by-law including: request of proof of age by applicant, a requirement to have an up-to-date tax account status at time of refund eligibility and the annual change of increase to the maximum combined household income for eligibility, which is \$34,259 for 2023 as opposed to \$32,442 last year. The increase reflects the year-over-year percentage change in the Ontario consumer price index.

In 2023, apart from the seniors rebate program, the Town continues to offer eligible seniors the choice to completely defer taxes made possible by the introduction of the Older Adults Tax Deferral Program (OATDP) by the Region of Halton in 2017. All lower-tier municipalities in Halton are participating in the OATDP and each municipality administers the program for eligible participants in their communities. In 2022, 37 eligible Oakville property owners participated in the deferral program.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

All efforts are used to ensure property owners are advised of the assistance programs offered by the Town.

(B) FINANCIAL

The Town's anticipated cost of the rebate program is estimated to be \$28,200 and the amount to fund the Town's share was set aside in the 2023 budget.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

NA

(D) CORPORATE STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal(s) to:

- Continuously improve our programs and services
- Be accountable in everything we do
- Be innovative in everything we do
- Be the most livable Town in Canada

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

NA

APPENDICES:

Appendix A By-law 2023-032

Prepared by:

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Recommended by:

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Submitted by:

Nancy Sully, Commissioner, Corporate Services and Treasurer