
Town of Renfrew Public Budget Meeting Q & A

Q: Does the Town of Renfrew use a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis tracking system when looking at progress and how we did?

A: The Town does not routinely use a SWOT analysis, but the Town uses similar tools such as a quarterly reviewed Corporate Workplan and financial reports where we measure actuals to budget year-over-year. Plans for capital reinvestment, operations, and services are determined in coordination with more comprehensive long-term planning documents such as the *Strategic Plan*, the *Asset Management Plan*, the *Master Transportation Plan* and more. All can be found on the Town website here: <https://www.renfrew.ca/en/town-hall/plans-reports-studies>

Q: Is Council currently moving forward with the proposed tax rate hike of 8.81%?

A: In October, the Budget Committee began reviewing a draft budget of 13.01%. In December, the committee explored a 4.18% tax levy increase. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2025, for ongoing budget review.

Q: Why is my final tax bill higher than anticipated, especially when compared to last year's final tax bill?

A: Property taxes are billed twice a year. The first bill, called the interim bill, is based on about 50% of the previous year's taxes. This helps ensure the Town continues to receive funds early in the year to maintain services. The second bill, called the final bill, includes any updates for the current year, such as changes to tax rates set by the Town, County, or School Boards.

Each bill has two payment due dates. This split payment schedule is designed to make it easier for property owners to budget, and it also supports the Town's cash flow needs throughout the year.

It's important to know that the increase on your personal tax bill may not match the overall tax levy increase. This can happen for several reasons, some of which are out of the Town's control, including:

- County or education tax rates may change differently from the Town's rate
- Growth or new development in the community can shift how taxes are distributed
- Properties can move between assessment classes (for example, from residential to commercial)
- Your individual property assessment may have changed due to MPAC updates, such as:
 - A severance
 - Renovations or additions
 - New home construction or improvements
 - Reassessment of your property's value

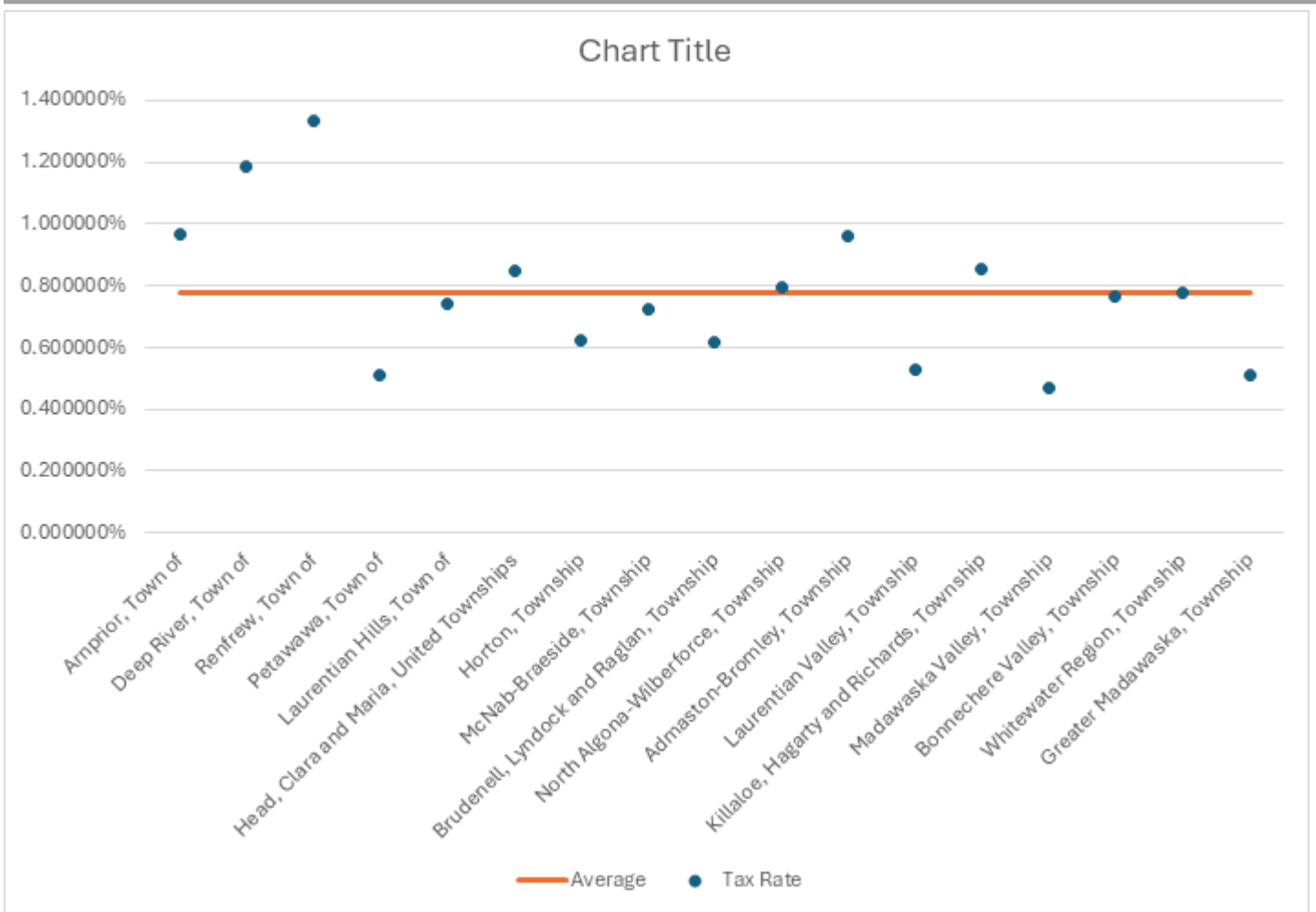
These factors can affect your tax bill differently than the average household. If you have any concerns or would like help understanding your tax bill, please contact the Town Office at 613-432-4848. We're here to help.

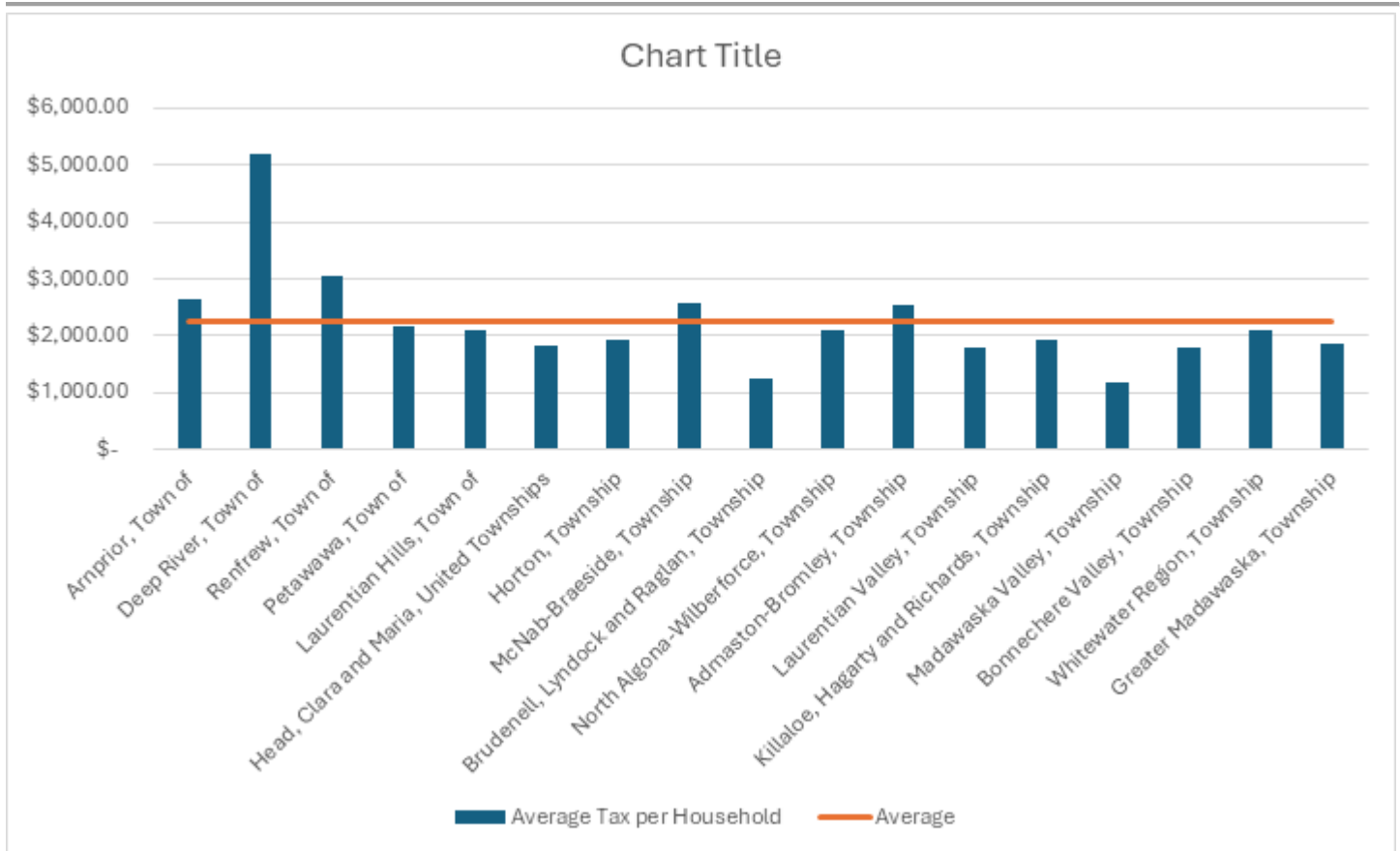
Q: How do we compare to other Municipalities in Renfrew County regarding our current tax rate, and also proposed tax rate increase for 2026? Are we on-par with the rest, higher, or lower?

A: 2026 budgets have not yet been established for all the County municipalities; but comparisons can be provided for 2025. One measure is to compare the average tax per household.

Residential Comparison – Lower Tier Municipalities in Renfrew County (total tax levy divided by households.)

Municipality	Municipal Rate Portion Only	Average Municipal Tax per Household
Arnprior, Town of	0.966498%	\$2,644.78
Deep River, Town of	1.187465%	\$5,200.60
Renfrew, Town of	1.331763%	\$3,053.34
Petawawa, Town of	0.513783%	\$2,185.70
Laurentian Hills, Town of	0.742021%	\$2,087.68
Head, Clara and Maria, United Townships	0.848%	\$1,842.47
Horton, Township	0.625626%	\$1,947.10
McNab-Braeside, Township	0.721979%	\$2,577.42
Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan, Township	0.619244%	\$1,252.54
North Algona-Wilberforce, Township	0.798250%	\$2,110.69
Admaston-Bromley, Township	0.960840%	\$2,548.84
Laurentian Valley, Township	0.529714%	\$1,793.66
Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, Township	0.856921%	\$1,926.64
Madawaska Valley, Township	0.470563%	\$1,194.51
Bonnechere Valley, Township	0.766626%	\$1,806.45
Whitewater Region, Township	0.778419%	\$2,085.17
Greater Madawaska, Township	0.508690%	\$1,850.40





Q: What is the staffing structure for the Town of Renfrew in 2025, and what is proposed for 2026?

A: In 2025, the Town started the year with a total of 76.24 Full-Time Equivalents (FTE's), in November 2025 has a total of 75.63 FTE's:

- Office of the CAO – 1.00
- Legislative Services & Council Relations – 3.00
- Community & Recreation Services – 22.17
- Library – 6.00
- Development & Environment – 6.50
- Infrastructure, Public Works, & Engineering – 14.50
- Finance & Corporate Services – 7.00
- Fire, Emergency & Protective Services – 15.46 (note that volunteer firefighters count only as 1 single FTE for all)

There have been no proposed changes to the 2026 FTE's; the budget has been prepared with the staffing as noted above.

Q: Has MPAC provided any direction on when they will be doing their updated assessments?

A: No. This is a decision made by the Province of Ontario. As noted on MPAC's website at [The Assessment Cycle | MPAC](#), the Province postponed the 2020 assessment update for the 2021-2024 assessment cycle due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Then on August 16, 2023, they filed a regulation to amend the *Assessment Act*, extending the postponement and they have continued this postponement for 2026.

Q: Who conducted the assessment for identifying the replacement of our rooftop units on 1 Innovation Drive?

A: The rooftop units have NOT been identified for replacement. A qualified HVAC contractor performs quarterly maintenance on these units.