

| Do you have any comments on this survey or suggestions for Council as it completes the 2018 Budget: (Briefly provide your comments or suggestions) |
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| My one suggestion involves waste management. Please, find a way in which I can pay more to have something extra removed from my curbside waste. It would make my life totally easier if I had an option to put out more during some key times of year. That would be my one "municipal wish"!!!! |
| We need to increase our efforts to draw young families and young people back to our area. To do this we need to focus on economic development and activities for youg families. |
| It is time to end large commitments of money made by council without sending the items to budget deliberations. Children's Treatment Center could have waited a few weeks for an answer and any group that applies shortly after budget is set are deliberately avoiding it! If council sets a policy of only receiving these request through the budget committee it will mean better cost control, less work during the budget year for council and staff, and a clear review process. Thank you. |
| Museum and culture services should be entirely funded by user fees, grants and other government funding. As we are becoming more digital and less reliant on public libraries, please consider downsizing our libraries. If it is a matter of allowing the public to access the internet, create community hubs at Municipal buildings or recreation facilities for the sole purpose of providing Wi-Fi or computers. We do not need libraries to manage this with staff costs. You could have one main library in Chatham and have a delivery service send the books to these community hubs with electronic methods of picking up their books. The main point I would like to make is to cut library building costs and staff costs. I also did not see a budget category for Tourism or the Capitol Theatre in this survey. |
| The budget is currently spread too thin. I pay an exorbitant amount of taxes for the amount of municipal services I use and that are available to me. Public transportation does not go to my area, children's services are not accessible for parents that work, there is little to no job creation for professionals, there is little to no incentives to actually remain in Chatham-Kent. The city should pick their priorities and try to do a better job at those instead of doing a minimal amount across a variety of services. |
| Please be forward thinking and use this budget to help build a better community for us and our children. |
| Because this survey didn't give the option, I need to say that the municipality should be largely responsible for ensuring north kent and Dover residences who lost water, receive either compensation or municipal water brought into these areas. Everyone knows the turbines caused the problems. People are suffering and it should the municipality's foremost concern. |
| improvements to our ambulance services is crucial, Chatham residents don't see a problem but like everything else Chatham is pampered compared to the rural areas. our lives are just important. More roads in the rural areas need to be looked at. When making repairs to the roads do it right the first time so that it isn't torn up the next year. Get rid of the train to nowhere. Promote all of Chatham-kent not just Chatham . |
| The first question asks about familiarity with the budget. I had to respond with "somewhat" because the budget is not transparent and filled with innuendo and subjective words. A clearly worded and thorough budget would make it easier for the layman to understand and make it less complicated to participate in municipal spending. |
| Cut back on roadside weed/grass cutting to once a year. Before amalgamation ambulances were stationed in Chatham. Keep Randy and company home. Get rid of a bunch of nice to have departments. Get someone with intelligence to replace the Medical Officer of Health. |
| Sadly with the rise in our property and hydro bills, being a home owner I am looking to sell my house and move completely out of Chatham-Kent and even possibly out of Ontario. What will council do to help retain citizens? Although my household income is over \$100 000. Why should I stay. Our taxes keep going up, services are declining. our road is horrible, only patched for the 7 years I have lived on my street. |
| Invest in youth recreation. Reduce police budgets, crime rate is down , population is stagnant. Police budgets have quadrupled in 20 years. Our population has not changed if anything gone down?? Economic development thru private investment, not municipal investment, ie purchase of a railroad?? Capital theatre?? Etc. |
| You are missing a lot of areas however this city needs yard waste pickup and the garbage disposal/recycle services are lacking quite a bit. I would also like to see more finding for animal control from an organization other than pawr. They are wasteful and ignorant to the problems in this city and do not seem to have a grasp on how to properly manage the large amount of funds they receive both through municipal funding and donations. The Manager, Licensing Services needs to stop siding with her friend and do her job objectively. The witch hunts with other local rescues are both immature and counter productive causing animals to suffer. The bus system also needs to improve although I don't use it there would be less people forced into poverty or on OW if they had affordable and reliable transportation. Another area that needs to be addressed is the police. There is far too many breaking and thefts in even the good areas of town. Something needs to be done to controls the drug addicts In this city that apparently think it is ok to steal property that someone worked hard to earn. That's my say. Now it's your turn to listen |

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| Taxes are making it unsuitable to live in Chatham as inflation is driving up the cost of living. If you want sustained residency you must make it affordable to live here. |
| All this money the municipality gets from the wind turbines and the casino slots: where does it go? I know it goes into Municipal funds, but I haven't seen my taxes go down any & I have to look at the FOREST of wind turbines that have ruined all the views in the country areas of Chatham-Kent & more are being added all the time. I also notice there are none anywhere near the city of Chatham. Hmm I wonder why ? I guess it's OK for the rest of us, but they don't want to look at them. |
| Do not increase taxes! |
| I appreciate the opportunity to complete this survey. I have no issue with a reasonable increase in property tax if it is required to continue to grow our community. |
| I support subsidizing sports and recreation programs that support an active and healthy lifestyle. Similar we need to expand active transportation options, i.e., bike lanes, trails and sidewalks. |
| Stop running fast with the snowplows on gravel roads...There is no reason....The gravel only ends up in the ditch,thus resulting in ZERO gravel on the road....It's fine if theres an inch or 2 on the road....LIFT THE BLADE!!!! couple few inches of snow we can deal with....6 or more by all means plow it slowly....Leave the gravel on the road please.... |
| Stop the overseas trips ! They are not working.....except for the participants ! |
| I would like the same services in Blenheim for parks, roads , and fire, police, and ambulance as we had before we became C-K. Our community has to fund raise for splash parks, fire equipment (jaws of life) ect. ect. and Chatham had it's water park paid for by tax dollars and the police keep wasting money on toys (drone) ect. stop the waste off the police. I want my street kept clean (swept as in the '90s), lines painted and holes and curbs repaired as well as sidewalks maintained. Hold wages and expenses, let employees go on strike or find another job, if they don't like their pay. Also stop the economic development wasteful trips to Europe. They have accomplished nothing in landing companies from China or elsewhere ,STOP THE WASTE FROM ECONOMIC DEV.. Get rid of half of the staff and management of this department. To conclude cut the waste and hold a 2% increase. |
| perhaps instead of having a surplus of employees driving chatham/kent vehicles home every night they can drive to work like the normal people. Price of gas and wear and tear on these cars and trucks could be greatly reduced. Freeze hiring and wages untill things improve to justify increases, As you know, CK employees are well paid and have very good job protection, when is the last time anyone was laid off??? ONE VERY IMPORTANT THING ----- Have entegrus management make the salaries public knowledge, as they are a public owned business. this has been kept quite for to long. |
| I believe we can eliminate many city positions and streamline everything and learn to say no! Close libraries earlier and eliminate staff using public vehicles! |
| Our taxes are out of control in this municipality. Make the tough decisions (ie. not approving every wish that the police board comes up with- drones, technology, new vehicles) and focus on lowering taxes. This will increase our ability to attract residents and businesses alike. We lose residents and turn away businesses because of our taxes. Make the hard decisions that's what you were voted in for! |
| Not looking for anything thing better or new and improved,would like to have what we once had for gavel road maintenance and bridge repair.It seems we pay more and more taxes and get less year after year |
| I strongly feel that at least two additional ambulance are required for proper emergency services within the Chatham-Kent area. |
| Most money needs to be going towards our seniors. More focus on getting people off assistance or putting policies in place for how long. More background checks into fraudulent claims or double dipping. If you can smoke, have tv, cell phone you don't need assistance. Set up a volunteer program for those collecting so they can give back to the community. More focus on helping the working class |
| You have already been gouging the Taxpayer via the 40% stealth tax increases mandated by the corrupt Liberal entity MPAC. It is time to attract new residents from Toronto and Ottawa so we can increase the taxation base instead of gouging the existing residents. It is also time for Politicians to DEMAND proper financial assistance to maintain the roads and bridges across Chatham-Kent. Forget about bike trails , wind mills , defunct railways, the Capitol Theater , and skittle crosswalks, we have REAL problems to deal with that need to be addressed YESTERDAY. |
| Police and fire costs should be relative to frequency of crime and fire incidents as well as comparable to other jurisdictions. Do adjacent municipalities make any attempt to join together to get better deals on big purchases - e.g. vehicles? |
| Traffic lights at Grand Ave and Taylor Ave,should have been installed when the street was upgraded. They are still needed today. Why are we putting tax dollars into sport fields and arena when they are charging big dollars to join their teams. Claiming this is for up keep to go towards the fields and the arena. |
| Review revenue generating options and grant funding to offset increases and continue to build the community and services while keeping tax increases to a reasonable increase. Host a CK challenge to come up with revenue generating options for the community. Services can be maintained without increasing municipal taxes if they are reorganized and more efficiently managed. Many departments are bloated with excess union contracts which not only pay higher than average wages but handcuff management, preventing them from making changes to make more efficient operations. Major construction projects are often never on time and grossly over budget due to poor advanced planning and timing, outsourcing of project management and poor contract language. |

I feel general mtce on roads have been ignored. It seems they are forgetting mtce and just choose to resurface roads. Prince Albert Road is a prime example, it feels like your going down a railroad track. Wondering if winter control is budgeted as a whole to the complete municipality or are there area rated components (ie) sidewalk clearing within the former city of Chatham.

The municipality should be concentrating on infrastructure and should stop getting into money losing ventures such as the capitol theatre, an abandoned railway or trips to China which have yet to provide jobs, despite the public being told jobs are coming.

Roads and zoning and planning. We have more stop lights than the busiest cities with more popular attractions. I get CK doesn't get the smartest cohorts, but no reason to make everything so inefficient. Call it global warming and wasting everyone's gas accelerating and braking. Stop putting scrap yards in town borders with high traffic. Focus on free marketing tools provided by the province (are we not the most carbon neutral municipality with all our wind turbines yet and no natural gas generation?), families are diverse than have been when you were born. Single people. Empty nesters. And non-traditional families exist. Stop focusing on hereronormative nuclear family arrangements. Spend the \$2000 for a rainbow sidewalk when willing to promote at an impressive cost the "great place to raise a family". What we do have is an awesome CKPL. I encourage coworkers to engage in continuing education. We also enjoy low traffic volume that makes things safer for all models of transportation. Avoid introducing weird mechanics that are actually more confusing to the citizens (read up on bike lanes where bikes are not that common). Work on improving the "Chatham vs Kent" mentality I'm shocked is still an issue in 2018 after 20 years of almagamation.

Mental health is a huge issue at all ages. More resources needs to be dedicated to this service and better coordination of services for mental health as this is becoming the new epidemic.

I am also concerned about drug use in Chatham-Kent and the legalization of marijuana. More resources need to be put into upstream prevention and awareness with our younger population to prevent future problems.

Lastly, I feel more needs to be done with awareness about safe driving. People follow way too close and are not obeying the basic rules of the road.

I would consider increasing funding to public health but when \$30,000 is wasted on a curling Bonspiel for the sake of promoting increasing the public's level of activity, it makes me question decisions that are made. Have you ever been to a curling Bonspiel? People sit and watch while drinking beer and eating chips. The vast majority of people who will attend this event will be curlers...who likely already curl. Should have used this money to support other health-related services that public health offers, or if you would like to increase the activity levels of residents of CK, make it easier for them to participate by offering financial support to people who cannot afford to do so. What a waste of health dollars. This is not public health. Not saying that the Bonspiel is a bad idea, but the majority of support should have come from Parks and Rec., Rec Programs, Economic Development.

Although I do agree with increasing user fees in most areas I do not want to see these things become inaccessible to those who are on a low income budget. As for transportation, I suspect that most people using it are already on a low income budget.

We are also in great need of affordable housing in our community for low income earners and especially people living on assistance. A hostel for our homeless would be a great thing for this community.

A lot of irresponsible spending could be cut rather than services. Stop overspending on building projects. Stop travelling to other countries to secure "jobs". Stop buying pointless things like theatres, railroads, bushes etc.

Please don't spend money making recreational bike trails, make them in busy areas so people have alternatives to driving. Spend money on public bus transportation, it's been garbage ever since the mayor changed it. The town is largely graded on walkability, this town doesn't have walkability. Everyone drives here and accidents are a problem waiting to happen. Police don't really enforce driving laws here and are kinda useless.

I think you guys should really think about how many 4 dwelling rental houses there are here and tax the ___ out of the people renting them, most of the renters probably don't even live here and if they do... they should be taxed large.

You should probably also charge people for trash like couches, carpets and TVs on the road. It's a real eyesore.

I'd say tax the ethanol plant because it's the biggest eye sore in town, it probably stops a lot of people from investing in the town. It was a bad idea and I realize in the short term it probably really helped, but now it's here for good... even if the town manages to do well it'll be here. Another screw up by Council.

Speaking of the mayor, I think you should spend some of the budget on getting someone much better. He seems like a glorified charity fundraiser to the federal / provincial government. He says things like "i'd like to do business with so and so, but they haven't contacted me" all the time. Doesn't this guy have a phone?

Also our Federal Representative seems like he's all over the internet with people laughing at him, local government could be a lot more progressive. Otherwise this town doesn't have a chance... like these people wanna put a casino in chatham. I've seen this move before, they think it'll create a lot of jobs and give funding. Usually it does add some funds but also brings a lot of crime and drugs. Awful.

Please put more money into small business, the downtown is rotting. Also, put money into parks. Maybe make a few more things that aren't in the north end of town, I mean that north end might as well be a completely different town. It's nice, because it's not typical of Chatham... but that's part of the problem. Clean up Chatham, don't build away from it.

Police that we have are great but too spread out, a small village like wheatley needs more police patrols, crime is not rampant but definitely increasing. With social media the teens seem to know when the coast is clear to do what they please. They seem to always know. I have on occasions called the police but time they get here it is too late to catch anyone in the act and they know it. Again i say the police we have are great just cant be everywhere at same time. When they are here i feel they need to enforce the law more and make people know they will not tolerate speeding and bad driving. I live on Erie north and some drive like they are on the hiway already even the semis. More respect for laws is needed.

CK needs to keep open both Capitol Theatre and Kiwanis Theatre. Two different size theatres, with different user groups or renters' needs, is important to a diverse community just as is more than one arena, several sports fields or spaces for various sports, swimming pools, libraries and parks or green spaces

Thank you for providing this forum/survey.

consider funding for services for seniors and children

Costs for policing are too high. They need to operate with the current \$\$\$, I would like to see the city hold the line on tax increases. MANY people are on fixed incomes. Fixed that DO NOT increase yearly. Many Navistar pensioners get no increases. Not everyone has a pension from OPG or the government that has yearly increases. The current budget \$\$ should be enough to operate in 2018.

Don't forget the small towns in Chatham Kent

Public transportation should be a number one priority. Not only because of our increasing senior population, many of whom would be much safer in a decent public transport, but also because it would encourage economic development by getting people to work when they can't afford their own vehicle! So many people I know have to turn down jobs because Chatham is so spread out that they can't get to the places where the jobs are. Many other municipalities are operating their own Uber-like transportation programs. If Chatham were to implement an Uber-type public transportation system, they could kill two birds with one stone. Young people could have jobs, and older people could have safe and expedient transportation.

Also, for 8 weekends in the summer I would recommend making the section of King Street between Third and Fifth open to pedestrian traffic only. The restaurants could set up patios, the shops could have side walk sales. People would have a space to safely walk and mingle in the downtown core. It would encourage both business development and a healthier living.

Finally, I used to work for the federal government youth summer employment office. This FSWE program has since been cancelled, but while it ran we helped place more than 2000 youth find summer jobs every year. If the municipality implemented a similar program, it would go a long way to keeping young people in the city.

To pave more city roads. The cemetery needs new roads.

Remove the traffic lights at the old navistar exit, revamp lights at 3rd and 5th streets so advanced is stopped after 9pm. Lights at Grand and Sandy st. need to be retimed

Snow plows need to go on major roads more often. I love by the dog park and I swear it hasn't been touched sometimes and it's like we are less of a priority. Not acceptable

The cost of ice rental in CK is outrageous. The cost per hour in CK is \$193.53/hr, while in neighbouring centres it is only \$166/hr and they have 2 staff on hand at all times, while CK only has one.

Chatham is in desperate need of a new Arena and more ice time for Minor Hockey

Don't raise taxes. Don't raise salaries. Municipal Employees are already some of the highest wage earners in this Municipality. To have such a wage imbalance between the tax payers and their employees is not palatable for tax payer.

I would like to see the city council take a smaller roll in spending on social issues and Focus on infrastructure and law and order! Let the private industries/ companies take care of Social events ex. Capitol theatre sports fields arenas and cultural events. If the need is there someone will trim it into a business. If there is no demand then way wast the money one it for a few

Would like planning of a new arena planned. Memorial needs to go. Would love a double or triple pad arena built. I dont know how it can be done but it should be looked at. The current facilities are not getting any younger and we shouldnt waste any more money on them. And the better our public facilities the more attraction we will get to out city. To grow, and retain our population. It will also bring in more tourism and money to support our local businesses.

I am getting very tired of paying higher taxes ever year because of a lot of individuals that milk the system and expect us, the seniors to pay for their laziness and inability to be productive in society. I am sure the legalization of cannabis will great increase their inability to function in society, another tax grab gone bad.

I suggest the council "take control" over the engineering department and quit being lead, or should I say mislead, by engineering management. I believe it may be time to "divest" ourselves of some overpaid and under performing management in this department!

we need to attract business, so we can move some of the tax burden from residential, to business. Don't know how since our population age is up there. Do we really need all these city employees? My gosh, 2,000 employees really. Maybe cut back on some city vehicles. (Fleet) Looks like a truck sales lot.

Maybe Council & Top Members of Administration should lead by example, start the cuts at the top and let them flow downward vs the way they currently do it; from the bottom up. An election is less than a year away, the smoke and mirrors show won't cloud the vision of the voters as easily this time around. Better value definitely has to be sought for our tax dollars!

All tax funded services should be regularly reviewed to ensure that they're being run efficiently. It's unfair to to blindly suggest cutting funding without knowing whether or not any specific program is being mismanaged.

I would prefer to see the municipality use capital to have a consultant review all tax funded services. I'd bet money that numerous efficiencies can be made without cutting services or raising taxes.

This survey implies that the only way to prevent the increase of taxes is to cut services. That's a logical fallacy.

It's about time the municipality starts using common sense and logic in their decision making. Is this an election year?

Please keep in mind the young adults throughout the county who want to live and thrive in Chatham-Kent. Chatham continues to become a retirement community and young people are not attracted to living here.

I understand fire and police are required for a safe community .I feel the cost of these services have become out of control for a community our size . It seems to me union obligations are moving these services beyond affordable . Has a auxiliary fire service looked at . The Police , true needs studied not a big city style compliment of equipment and special teams . Does our attraction retention team even cover costs. Thanks i could comment more but i want to be brief.

Please look into a green bin program and increasing recycling pickup to every week. I moved from a Hamilton and the amount of garbage this municipality allows is awful.

We have way too many police in chatham kent. Kind of a running joke if you live anywhere else. Also fireworkers make too much for the volume of fires they fight in chatham. All other depts are volunteer. Why can't chatham be. Big savings from both of these.

We need to make our town more walkable. With more bike paths and better sidewalks. We need more walking paths like McGregor creek floodway.

I would love to see businesses coming back into Chatham. How is it that the higher the rank in a position we are the longer it takes and the more money it costs to make a decision to move forward and grow our community. I loved hearing stories this past year of small businesses expanding over seas by communication via a dozen emails and 2 personal visits to complete a business deal. We need decision makers and people who can follow through to be the hand that reaches out and welcomes new ideas and business in. This way we don't have to raise taxes to compensate for poor planning or too many hands in the decision making process to complete a job so we don't miss out on an opportunity. We need to look around see the options we have and go back to believing "Chatham will Charm You." We have an older generation now occupying our city and the services they need should be looked after. In my opinion accessibility is key, businesses and shopping options for those who can't get around on their own. They live within a strick budget most of them and the services available to them are so top heavy they can't afford the need because of the fees to cover administration. Our ambulance emergency services are being used way more often and we are not getting the funding or support to the service. I don't understand how our municipality supports 100% of our police and fire but don't find the one service that deals with our health as important to support?? Why would this service and support system not be as important? I don't see the reasoning to combine fire and ambulance since they both have totally specific jobs. There are enough men and women to cover each field and their responsibilities and yet per call volume ambulance gets less financial support and backing from our council. Why is this? Its actually pretty sad. Our health, our families, and our community should be the basis of all decisions made by our council in my opinion. I just feel certain decisions made on our council over the past years have been based on a "who you know" trend.

Try taking a realistic look at staffing levels, we have lost population and most of our industry, the tax base has shrunken and tax levels are very high. Even as our community has shrunk CK staff levels have stayed the same or grown, I really feel a very thorough review of all functions is critical especially at the higher levels where astronomical salaries are being paid.

Minimum wage increase will hurt us all. don't raise the taxes, cost of everything else is going to go up. We can't live now. We walk when we can (can't afford gas in car) and live in the damn dark can't afford to turn the lights on. Not to mention the cost of groceries after January1.

- find a way to make public transit free(it would encourage ridership)

-decrease the police budget -population is shrinking, crime rate is decreasing, bloated budget currently

Council needs to evaluate the assessment rate per area. Example Erieau has a VERY high tax rate compared to the services provided to our area. Taxes are so high that some families who have lived in the area for generations are now being forced to move because they can not afford the current tax rate, This fact is very sad

Suggest our council go to the Lakeshore recreational facility to see how a "progressive town" is run. Chatham could have had a beautiful facility like Lakeshore if council had some progressive thinking...and direction.

infrastructure, infrastructure, infrastructure

Reduce duplication of services to businesses. Example recreation programs should be done by the businesses currently out there not by the municipality. To me the municipality is taking away money from businesses. Public Health has a number of programs they are doing which is also being done by other sources.

It would be helpful to have more detail available. The top line of each budget area is useful and important information, but not sufficient information to make an informed contribution to the process. It would be helpful to be able to dive deeper. There are many transformative opportunities to change how we do things in, for example, transit and cemeteries. I'd also like to see public input by online survey IF a certain threshold is reached. For example, for a major expenditure, citizens could petition for input, and a survey could be set up. Not a yes/no vote; rather a more nuanced opportunity to inform people of aspects of the issue, as well as the opportunity to speak. The results could be open and transparent, and available as they come in, anonymously so that individuals have more equal voices. I recommend a short book called "Crowdocracy" by Drs. Alan Watkins and Iman Stratenus for examples of where this process is already working well in parts of the world.

Thank you for setting up this online survey process. I look forward to seeing it continue to develop and evolve. It may take a long time, and hopefully teachers in schools are encouraging our youth to participate.

Rural roads need more focus. Money is put into having them fixed and the workers do a poor job and at times only do partial roads. This leads me to think the municipality should cut taxes so we can use that money to fix our vehicles from the poor quality of roads within Chatham-Kent

It would be helpful to have a short synopsis as to what each item entails.

Example: Building services. What all does that cover?

That's it? Not sure the value of this input

More money for roads.

A four lane Hwy on Communications road.

Bloomfield road needs improvement to get Transports into the city.

Quit wasting money and aggregate into ditches and tar and chip our dirt roads!!! Quit calling them gravel roads. They are DIRT roads!!

And quit wasting tax payers money on adventures such as the Capitol Theatre, the railway or China trips!! Place money in our mighty Thames River cleaning it up and opening it up to boating traffic like we once had back in the 80's and 90's. We use to have a booming economy attracting people from all over into our Downtown core. I remember those fine days. Dredge out the Thames, clean it up!! If you build it, they will come. I know we would!!!

Creating jobs for the youth and retaining smaller companies should be important in Chatham-Kent, along with the environment. We should have local companies getting the municipal contracts, and providing services whenever possible. Looking after our seniors and providing services, stores within walking distance should be looked at for our community planning, along with public transit.

Please spend the money wisely. Our seniors, police, ambulance and fire services are of the utmost importance. Property owners should be required to shovel the sidewalks in front of their property within 12 hours of snowfall like in other communities (example Windsor). Our sidewalks are a mess after snow.

In 2017 Chatham had many roads/streets resurfaced. When I contact the road department, they always say not this year for streets in Blenheim is. This is the same answer every year. They neglect the older streets in Blenheim but we continue to pay taxes and receive nothing. We seem to get lip service but no concrete action.

We need roads cleared and maintained in Blenheim!!!

Cut management wages and it will allow taxes to stay the same. Can't believe how high taxes are in this community

Looking at the average household contribution to municipal services breakdown, it appears we are overpaying for numerous services that have minimal impact to the majority of citizens. I wish I could say that I felt my tax dollars were being put to good use.

Community attraction - we wouldn't need this if there were jobs or industry here... we don't need to attract anymore Toronto retirees coming here for the cheap housing.

Of course there is no interest in reducing the municipal costs or looking at cuts to anyone's services so it's easy to increase taxes year after year to cover this.

Also, the paving / infrastructure companies like coco, Clarke, heyink etc are greasing their pockets at the expense of the taxpayers. We are paying huge money for jobs that take way longer than necessary, cost more than they should and aren't done in time - 5th street bridge 2017, keil bridge 2016, Richmond, Grande resurfacing 2017 etc.

Thanks!

After moving back to Chatham from Toronto, it is clear that Chatham-Kent has an extreme police presence. Not only is the area saturated with police presence, the police services also benefit from updated technology. Police services are very important, however it is confusing to me why a small community has such a strong police presence with more modern technology than that in Toronto. This is especially troubling when systemic racism and targeting of poor and/or POC is increased with strong police presence in Canada and the United States. I think the city would benefit from adjusting their funding to accommodate affordable housing that upholds the dignity of the residents, supporting mental health and addiction initiatives, as well as youth outreach programs. Solving these issues will do a lot more for the community than punishing victims of an unfair system.

sell the railroad put in more bike lanes, fix and improve sidewalks,

More focus on road and bridge maintenance

No money spent on bike paths, rainbow sidewalks, nature paths, walking paths/bridges.

General reduction in excess municipal staff, or stop hiring outsiders to do jobs that we already have staff in place for.

Council has to begin to live within their means. Dreams are fine but we cannot afford them. To many times they have spent tax dollars on white elephants and ignored the real every day needs of its citizens. Rural needs are just as important as urban and infrastructure should have been addressed a long time ago, not ignored as it has been for years. Council either has taken monies out of it or just ignored this problem and now it has reared its ugly head and everyone doesn't know how to fix it.

In a recent census; approximately 110,000 was the published population of Chatham-Kent. About 40,000 of this population reside in the City of Chatham. That leaves approximately 70,000 of people in the rural area. Don't you agree, that the representation of the rural areas should out-weigh the representation of the City of Chatham. i.e. re-distribute the make-up of the Chatham-Kent council to represent this fairness in population equality

No alternative for reducing taxes and maintaining services.

Services should be maintained, it's middle management that should be reduced.

i believe the mill rate being charged is not evenly spread. a couple of streets over they pay less a mill rate for same size age, and home

I would prefer to see slight increases each year if required in order to maintain infrastructure such as bridges, roads, sewers, etc. in a proper manner instead of making a zero percent budget increase the main goal of the budget process.

Reduce number of employees. Declining population requires fewer bureaucrats.