



2025 Budget Survey Executive Summary

The 2025 Budget Survey gathered insights from 254 residents and property owners, informing Council's priorities for the upcoming budget. Participants highlighted key areas of focus, ensuring the budget aligns with community needs.

Community Engagement: Respondents were distributed across all wards and included a diverse age range, with notable participation from both younger and older age groups.

Key Findings:

- **Top Priorities:** Fire and emergency services, road and infrastructure quality, and police protection emerged as top community concerns.
- **Community Needs:** Safe and sustainable community initiatives, healthy living, and efficient municipal services were prioritized.
- **Feedback Themes:** Residents expressed strong concerns about road conditions, particularly in specific areas like Snye Road and White Lake. There were calls for improved maintenance and infrastructure upgrades.

What We Heard: 2025 Budget Survey

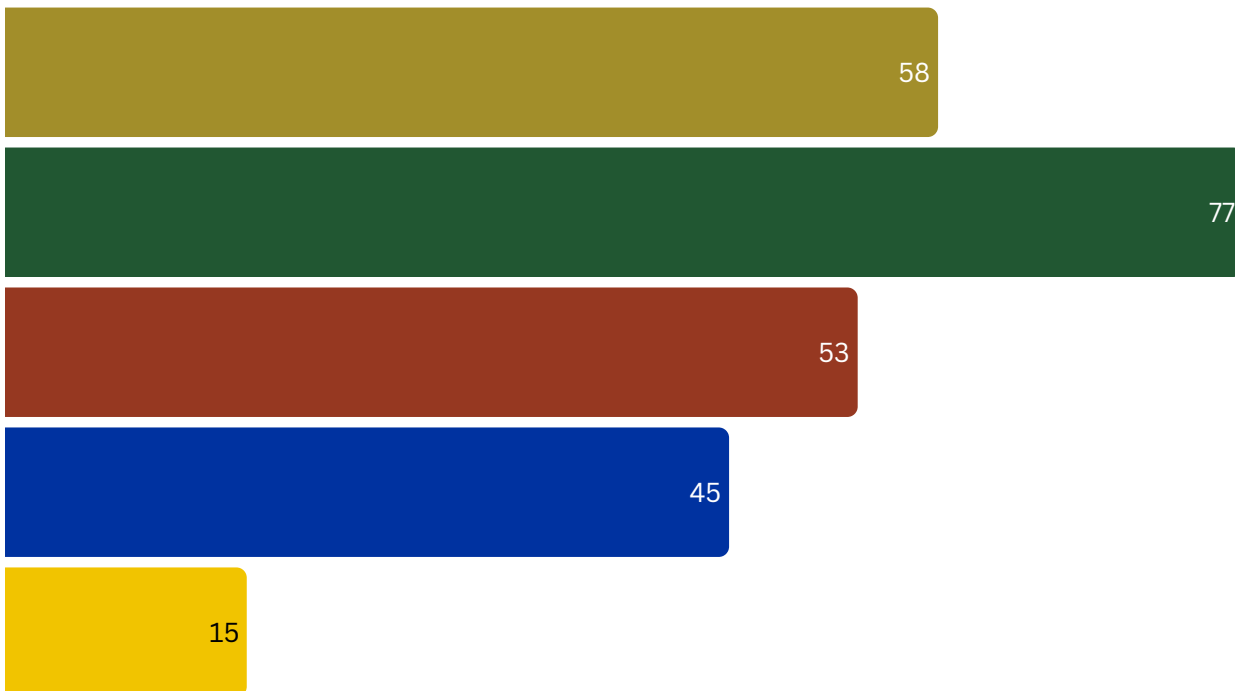
Overview

This report shares what we heard from residents and property owners through the 2025 Budget Survey. With 254 responses, your input, ideas, and priorities are helping Council ensure that the 2025 budget reflects what matters most to our community.

Who Shared Their Voice: Ward and Age Group Overview

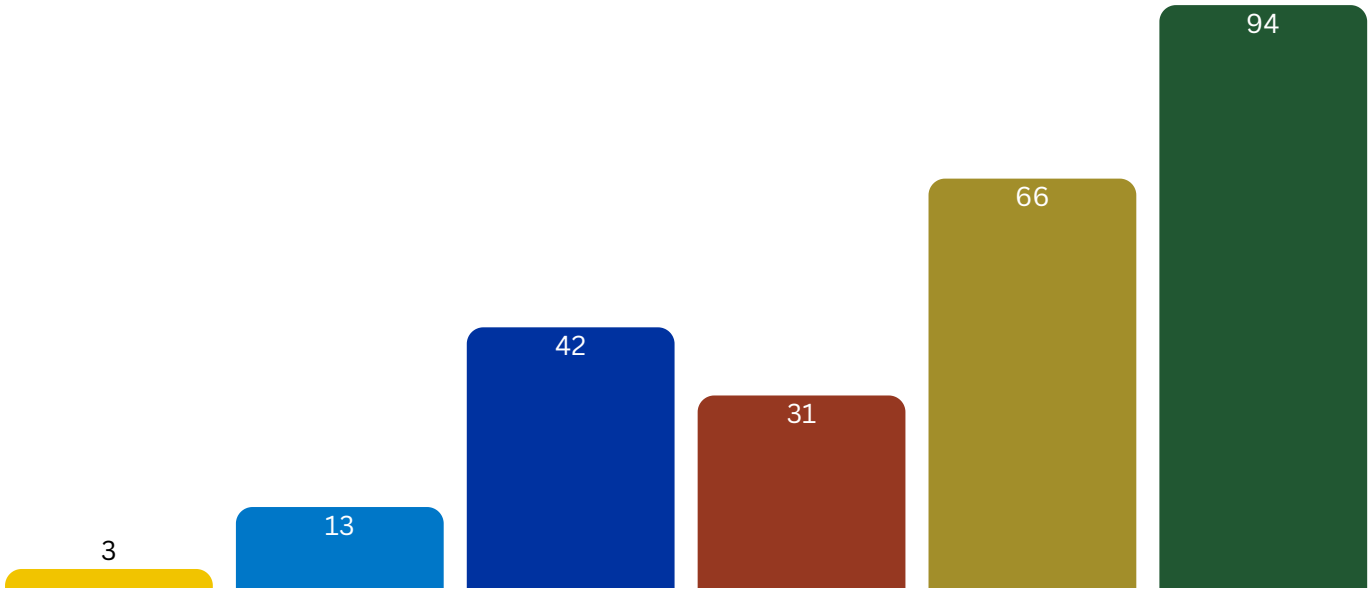
Connecting by Ward: Your Place in the Community

● Ward 1 ● Ward 2 ● Ward 3 ● Ward 4 ● Ward 5



Voices by Age Group

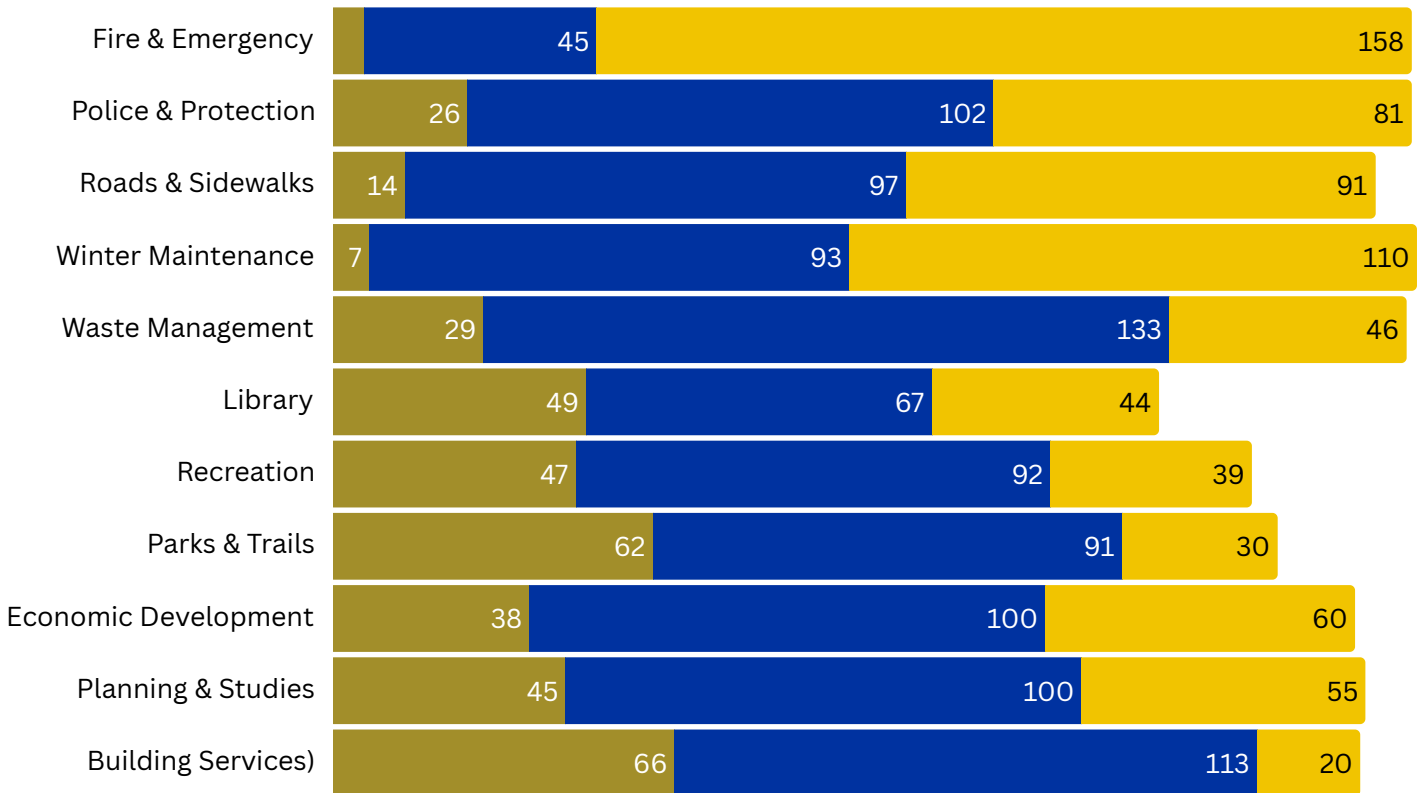
18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+



Our Shared Priorities: Rating and Top-Ranked Services

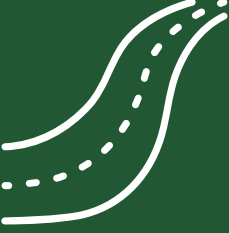




Community Priorities: How You Ranked Local Services

Low Medium High



Final Thoughts from the Community

What You Shared: Themes from Open-Ended Feedback

	<p>Road Conditions and Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong concerns about poor road conditions, especially Snye Road, White Lake, Darling, and Robertson Lake areas• Requests for resurfacing, grading, and paving key rural roads considered unsafe or neglected
	<p>Financial Transparency and Accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repeated calls for clear financial reporting, independent audits, and tracking of missing funds (e.g., sewer/water reserves, capital spending)• Frustration with budgeting delays, unexplained line items, and perceived mismanagement
	<p>Equity Across Wards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural and seasonal residents, particularly in White Lake and Ward 2, feel underserved despite contributing significant tax revenue• Concerns that village-focused decisions don't reflect broader community needs
	<p>Fire and Emergency Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions about the cost and necessity of new fire trucks and facilities• Requests for improved service coverage and faster emergency response times in underserved areas
	<p>Support for Libraries, Museums, and Community Hubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong advocacy for continued or increased funding for community institutions like the Dalhousie Library & Museum and local halls• Recognition of their value as community gathering places and heritage assets



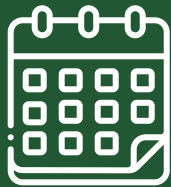
Resident Engagement and Council Conduct

- Desire for more opportunities to give feedback through public meetings, surveys, or forums
- Concerns about council dynamics, tone, and lack of responsiveness to public input



Taxation Concerns

- Widespread concern about high taxes relative to services received, particularly in rural areas
- Suggestions for a more equitable or transparent approach to taxation and service fees



Timing and Process of Budgeting

- Frustration with the 2025 budget process starting late into the year
- Suggestions for earlier, more organized, and accessible budgeting timelines



General Dissatisfaction with Services and Governance

- Broader concerns about leadership, accountability, and vision for the Township
- Calls for improved communication, efficiency, and forward-thinking decision-making



Environmental Protection and Land Use

- Opposition to perceived overdevelopment or subdivisions that may alter rural character
- Requests for better environmental planning and protection of natural spaces