



*2011 Tax Supported  
User Fees  
FCS10093*

**General Issues Committee  
December 14th, 2010**

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# User Fees - Guideline

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- The following Council guideline was approved in June, 2010:
- *“That user fees (excluding golf, transit and ice fees) be increased by inflation and that any user fee adjustments, other than inflationary, be forwarded for consideration with appropriate explanation”*
- Internal guideline for inflation is 2%



# User Fees - Revenues

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- Revenue generating: \$2.0 - \$2.5 million in additional funding (excluding transit, building permits = separate report)
  - Equates to approximately 1.4% - 1.8% increase when compared to 2010
- Revenue estimates for 2011 budget are based on the proposed fees contained in report
- For the most part, proposed fees will be effective Jan 1, 2011 (some may require an implementation period after approval, therefore will be effective sometime during 2011)



# User Fees not included

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- The following fees are not included in the user fee report (FCS10093):
  - **Transit fares:** separate report
  - **Building Permit Fees:** separate report; legislative requirement to hold public meeting
  - **Planning/Development Engineering fees:** already have approval through the “Tariff of Fees” by-law to be indexed annually
  - **Farmers’ Market Stall fees:** already approved by Council for Jan 1, 2011



- Recreation (program fees) and Animal Control are proposing changes to their fees in an effort to better streamline the fee structure
  - Results in previous fees/categories being eliminated and replaced with new ones
  - Simplified fee structure
  - Removal of fees no longer in use
  - May result in some deviation from the guideline



# Guideline Increases

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- For the most part, the majority of fees (80% of the fees within this report) are increasing by the approved guideline
  - Some deviation for rounding = customer convenience and easier cash handling



# User Fees: Increases < Guideline

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- Some fees are proposed to remain unchanged or increase less than the guideline:
  - Already at full cost recovery
  - Existing fee at current market value (i.e. recreation admission fees, museum admission and group fees, user group ice fees<sup>1</sup>, golf)
  - Legislated fee set by the Province
  - As per previously approved agreement / report
  - Fee under review (museum memberships)

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<sup>1</sup> excludes Prime Time Subsidized



# User Fees: Increases > Guideline

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- Some fees are proposed to increase greater than the guideline:
  - To ensure full cost recovery
  - To act as a deterrent (vicious dog)
  - To reflect current market value (i.e. animal control, museum rental rates)
  - Council approval (i.e. prime time subsidized ice fee; permanent road closure application)





- New fees proposed for 2011:
  - Planning & Economic Development:
    - Sign permit fee for any new or changes to existing sign that requires a building permit – to recover review costs required to ensure compliance
    - Annual taxicab inspection fee and daily fee for spare taxicabs – to recover cost of providing service
  - Public Health:
    - Food Handler Training Challenge Exam – cost recovery for exam only (without course)



# User Fees: New Fees cont'd

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- Community Services:
  - Summer Ice Affiliate fee set at market rate (replaces previous subsidized fee)
  - Admission fees and group rates for Griffin House
  - Joint site group rate for Dundurn and Hamilton Military Museum
- Public Works:
  - Municipal Consent Permit fee (long stream) – cost recovery for required in-depth processing and review
  - Road Occupancy Permit fee – cost recovery for processing and inspection



# User Fees: New Fees cont'd

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- Public Works (cont'd)
  - Temporary Parks Access Permit Security Deposit – to coincide with newly developed permit process
- Corporate Services:
  - Commissioner of Oaths (Clerks)
  - On-line tenders and RFPs (introducing a lower fee where documents are obtained on-line)
  - Fee for changes in banking information (where more than one request per year by the vendor)
  - Fees for consideration of assignment / corporate change requests – recovery of legal costs incurred for changes to contract (i.e. vendor name change)