



2012 Assessment Update

This year, MPAC will complete its second province-wide Assessment Update under the four-year cycle and phase-in program introduced by the Government of Ontario in 2008. The 2012 Current Value Assessments will reflect the January 1, 2012 legislated valuation date and will be in place for the 2013 to 2016 property tax years.

Property owners will be notified of their updated assessments when Property Assessment Notices are mailed starting in early September.

MPAC is preparing to launch an enhanced AboutMyProperty™ application this fall. The self-serve application, accessible through www.mpac.ca, will allow property owners to access detailed information about their property assessments.

Stay tuned for more information about the launch of the enhanced AboutMyProperty™ and the 2012 Assessment Update.

MPAC Welcomes New Board Members

The Minister of Finance has announced the appointment of several new members to MPAC's Board of Directors.

MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES

Ken Hughes

Mr. Hughes is the Deputy City Treasurer for the City of Ottawa and the President of the Ontario Municipal Tax and Revenue Association (OMTRA).

Bob Kilger

Mr. Kilger is the Mayor of Cornwall. He previously served as a Member of Parliament from 1988 to 2004 and is currently involved in a number of community projects in Cornwall.

John Skorobohacz

Mr. Skorobohacz is the Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Innisfil. He previously acted as Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Windsor and City Clerk for the City of Burlington.

PROPERTY TAXPAYER REPRESENTATIVES

Alf Chaiton

Mr. Chaiton is the President of Tweedsmuir Green Power Group. Previously, Mr. Chaiton was a Senior Advisor to the Mayor of Ottawa and a Senior Policy Advisor to the federal Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

MPAC is accountable to the public through a 15-member Board of Directors composed of eight municipal representatives, five members representing property taxpayers and two provincial government representatives. All board members are appointed by the Minister of Finance. For more information about MPAC's Board of Directors, visit www.mpac.ca.

Property Assessment & Wind Turbines

When assessing any property, MPAC relies on the market to indicate the level of influence that a factor, such as wind turbines, may have on a property's value.

This is done through ongoing study and analysis of the market including the investigation of sales transactions. This market analysis typically reveals whether or not a factor has a negative or positive impact on a property's value.

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To date, MPAC's analysis of sales has indicated that the presence of wind turbines that are either abutting or in proximity to a property has neither a positive nor negative impact on its value.

On March 29, 2012, the Assessment Review Board, an independent tribunal of the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, released a decision respecting a property located on Wolfe Island. The Board found that based on the evidence in this case there appeared to be no evidence of any negative impact to the value of the property.

MPAC continues to monitor property values in areas where wind turbines are present and will reflect any impact to property values in the 2012 province-wide Assessment Update.

Have You Received Your 2011 MPAC Annual Report?

If you have not yet received your copy of MPAC's 2011 Annual Report, please contact your Municipal Relations Representative. You can also view the full report on our website at www.mpac.ca.



Highlights from the 2011 report include messages from MPAC's Chair and President and Chief Administrative Officer; the 2011 year in review; property assessment growth statistics; MPAC's Balanced Scorecard and Key Performance Indicators; and financial highlights.

Update on MPAC's Building Permit Exchange

INCREASING EFFICIENCIES AND DELIVERING TIMELY ASSESSMENTS

Measuring assessment growth and new development is a critical part of MPAC's core business. In 2011, MPAC added \$28.4 billion in supplementary and omitted assessments to municipal rolls. That growth represents more than \$300 million in new annual property taxes, which support the delivery of municipal services.

MPAC introduced a new process in 2011 to improve its building permit exchange with municipalities. Standardizing the process has many advantages including maximizing the addition of

assessment growth for municipalities. This supports the delivery of municipal services and results in more timely assessment information for property owners.

Building permit information provided in the standardized electronic format is uploaded significantly quicker to MPAC's database and with greater accuracy. When MPAC receives information that is not in the standard electronic format, it must be keyed in manually which is both time consuming and can result in errors. If there are any discrepancies or missing information, MPAC will then contact the municipality for clarification, which causes further delays to the process.

The new exchange process also facilitates the easy sharing of building permit updates from municipalities. These updates, which include information such as occupancy date, are a critical trigger for MPAC in determining how to effectively prioritize workload, and when it is appropriate to visit a property. This ensures that MPAC staff visit properties when construction is completed and they are occupied, allowing us to process the new assessment.

We are pleased to report that we are making progress in standardizing the new electronic process and as of May, 215 of Ontario's 414 municipalities who issue building permits were using the new standard format.

Timely and accurate property assessments are important to both MPAC and Ontario municipalities and we are working toward bringing all municipalities on board with the new process.

For more information about MPAC's building permit exchange, contact your Municipal Relations Representative.



Introducing the New mpac.ca

On May 14, MPAC launched its redesigned website at www.mpac.ca. With its improved navigation and user-friendly design, the website was designed to help MPAC meet the increased needs of its stakeholders during the 2012 Assessment Update and new accessibility guidelines for the web.

The "Municipalities" section provides easy access to Municipal Connect™, propertyline™, MPAC's calendar of events, assessment products and information, and videos.

If you have any questions or comments about the website, please contact your Municipal Relations Representative.

Visit with MPAC at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference

Representatives from MPAC will be attending the 2012 AMO Annual Conference from August 19-22 in Ottawa, where MPAC Chair Dan Mathieson and President and Chief Administrative Officer Antoni Wisniewski will present to attendees. Make sure to attend the session or stop by the MPAC booth to speak with MPAC's Municipal Relations Representatives.

Unable to attend the conference? MPAC's presentation will be posted at www.mpac.ca following the conference.

New Legislation for Cemeteries Means Taxation Changes

Recent changes to the *Assessment Act* and the consolidation of two Acts into the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act* bring changes to the property tax exemption for cemeteries.

The property tax changes, intended to come into effect on January 1, 2013, require cemeteries other than religious or municipal cemeteries that engage in certain non-interment, non-scattering, bereavement-related activities, to pay property tax on the portion of land used for such purposes. These activities include on-site funeral establishments, transfer services and crematoriums established after January 1, 2002.

Religious and municipal cemeteries engaging in these bereavement-related activities will be exempt from property tax, but will be required to make a payment into their care and maintenance fund equivalent to the property tax that would be payable if the land were liable to assessment and taxation.

To help MPAC accurately value and classify these properties, a letter and questionnaire will be sent to cemetery owners

requesting information about their properties. We may also contact cemetery owners to clarify any information on the form or to schedule an on-site inspection.

Details can be found in a letter sent to Municipal Clerks, Treasurers and Tax Collectors in June by Arthur Anderson, MPAC's Director of Municipal Relations.

For more information, please contact your local Municipal Relations Representative.

MPAC IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Over the coming months, we are going to be out and about in Ontario communities and attending many conferences. Interested in having an MPAC representative attend one of your events? Contact your Municipal Relations Representative for more information.

AUGUST 19 – 22

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Annual Conference
Ottawa Convention Centre, Ottawa, Ontario

SEPTEMBER 9 – 12

Ontario Municipal Taxation and Revenue
Association (OMTRA)
Annual Fall Conference
Minnett, Ontario

SEPTEMBER 9 – 12

Ontario Building Officials
Association (OBOA)
Annual Meeting and Training Session
Sudbury, Ontario

A full listing of events can be found in the municipalities section of www.mpac.ca under "Calendar of Events."

Arthur Anderson

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