

# ***2022 Municipal Study Haldimand County***

May 2023

**BMA**  
Management Consulting Inc.

Municipal Study  
2022



5055

**BMA**  
MANAGEMENT CONSULTING INC.

## Presentation

- Review Highlights of 2022 Municipal Study
  - ✓ Socio-Economic Indicators
  - ✓ Financial Indicators
  - ✓ Cost of Service and Affordability Indicators
- 117 municipalities participated in the study, representing in excess of 86% of the population
- Comparisons provided to 9 Ontario municipalities – selected by either geographic location or population

<i>Populations</i>	<i>Number of Municipalities</i>
100,000 or greater	28
30,000 - 99,999	30
15,000 - 29,999	27
0 - 14,999	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>

# Financial Condition Assessment - Key Indicators

## *Growth and Socio-Economic Indicators*

Population  
Employment Statistics  
Building Construction Activity  
Property Assessment

## *Municipal Levy, Property Taxes & Affordability Indicators*

Municipal Levy  
Municipal Property Taxes as a % of Income  
Household Income  
Water/WW Costs

## *Financial Position Indicators*

Reserves & Reserve Funds  
Debt  
Municipal Financial Position  
Taxes Receivable

## Peer Municipal Comparators

Municipality	2022 Population	Land Area (sq. km.)	Population Land Density (per sq. km.)
Norfolk	70,886	1,598	44
Chatham-Kent	108,363	2,452	44
Brant	41,879	818	51
Greater Sudbury	173,072	3,186	54
Belleville	58,256	247	236
Kingston	139,929	452	310
Niagara Falls	99,455	210	473
Hamilton	598,900	1,118	536
Brantford	110,096	99	1,116
<b>Haldimand</b>	<b>52,122</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>42</b>

- Haldimand challenge: a large geographic area with a low population density
- Requires more infrastructure funded by fewer people
- Analysis also includes study averages of all municipalities

Source: 2022 Manifold Data Mining



## Section 1: Growth and Socio-Economic Indicators

# Growth and Socio-Economic Indicators

- Monitoring the trends of socio-economic indicators often provide an “early warning” of future financial condition



# Growth and Socio-Economic Indicators

- Standard & Poor's bond rating agency - "demographic characteristics factor heavily into economic analysis"
- An examination of economic and demographic characteristics can identify, for example, the following types of situations:
  - Changes in tax base and the community's ability to pay for public services;
  - A need to shift public service priorities because of demographic changes; and
  - A need to shift public policies because of changes in economic conditions.



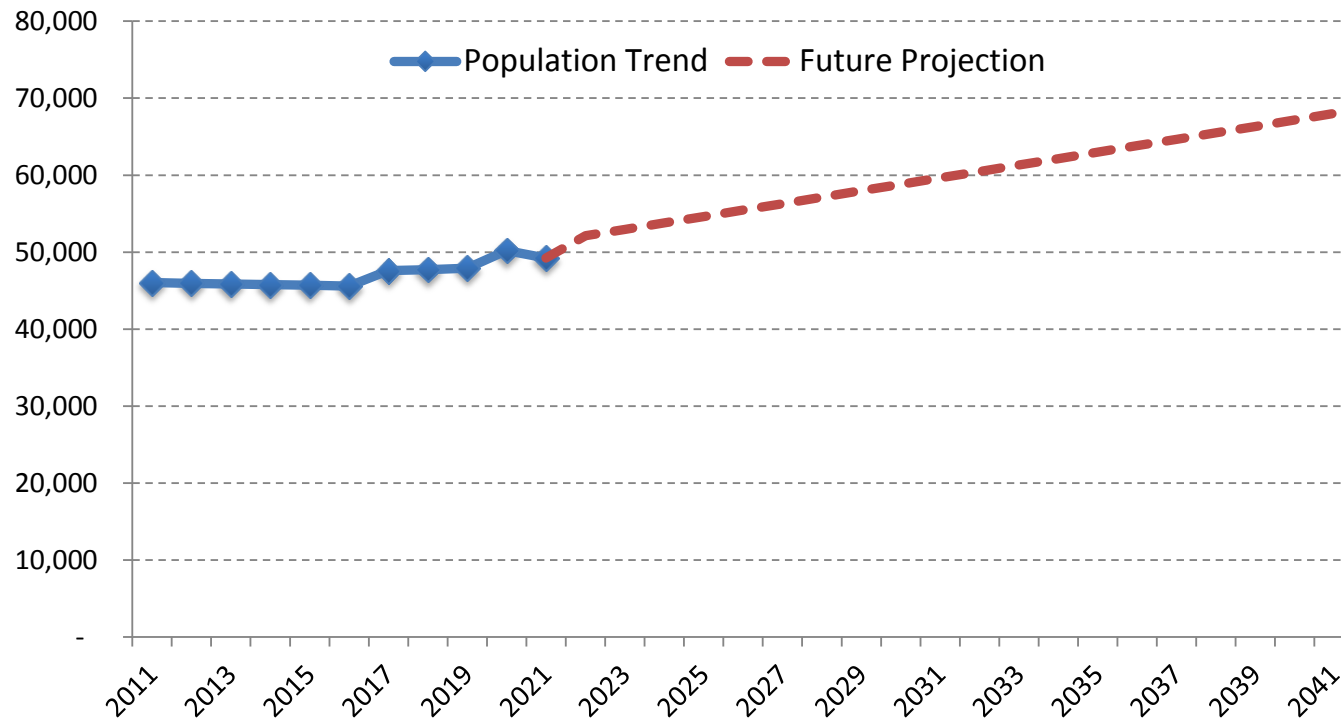
# Growth & Socio-Economic Indicators

- Haldimand's population increased by 7.9% from 2016 to 2021, higher than the peer and group average:
- Group Average - 6.0%
- Survey average - 5.8%

Municipality	Population % Change 2016-2021
Chatham-Kent	2.3%
Greater Sudbury	2.8%
Norfolk	5.4%
Hamilton	6.0%
Kingston	7.0%
Niagara Falls	7.2%
Brantford	7.4%
Brant	7.5%
Belleville	8.6%
Group Average	6.0%
Survey Average	5.8%
Haldimand	7.9%



# Population Trend



Source: Haldimand Growth Analysis to 2051, Watson and Associates

- Population projected to increase from 52,122 in 2022 to 68,000 by 2041
- Growth will lead to increased demand for services and new capital infrastructure

# Age Demographics

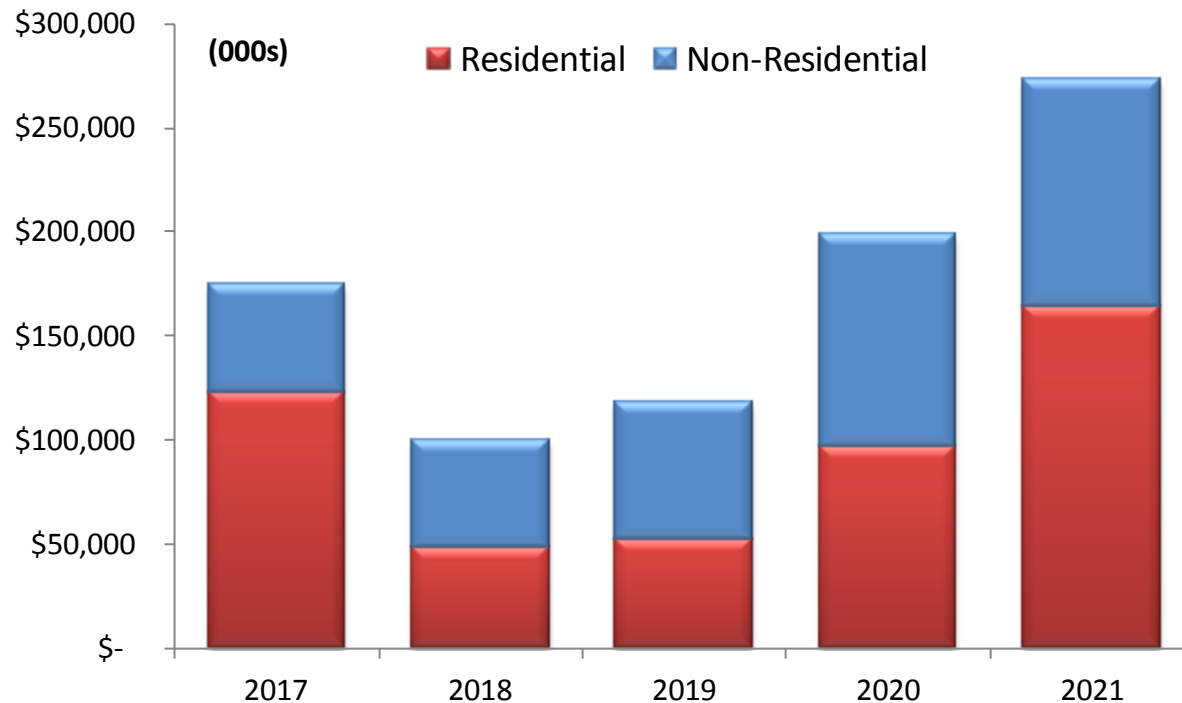
Age Profile	2016 Haldimand	2021 Haldimand	% Change Haldimand 2016 - 2021	2016 Ontario	2021 Ontario	% Change Ontario 2016 - 2021
Age 0-19	23.3%	23.1%	-0.2%	22.5%	21.5%	-1.0%
Age 20-44	27.3%	28.3%	1.0%	32.3%	33.0%	0.6%
Age 45-64	31.3%	28.0%	-3.3%	28.5%	27.0%	-1.5%
Age 65+	18.1%	20.6%	2.4%	16.7%	18.5%	1.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%		100.0%	100.0%	

Source: 2016 and 2021 Census Stats Canada

Analysis of demographics can identify a need to shift public service priorities

- Haldimand's 65 + population is higher than the Provincial average and is the fastest growing segment
- An aging population could affect services e.g. parks and recreation

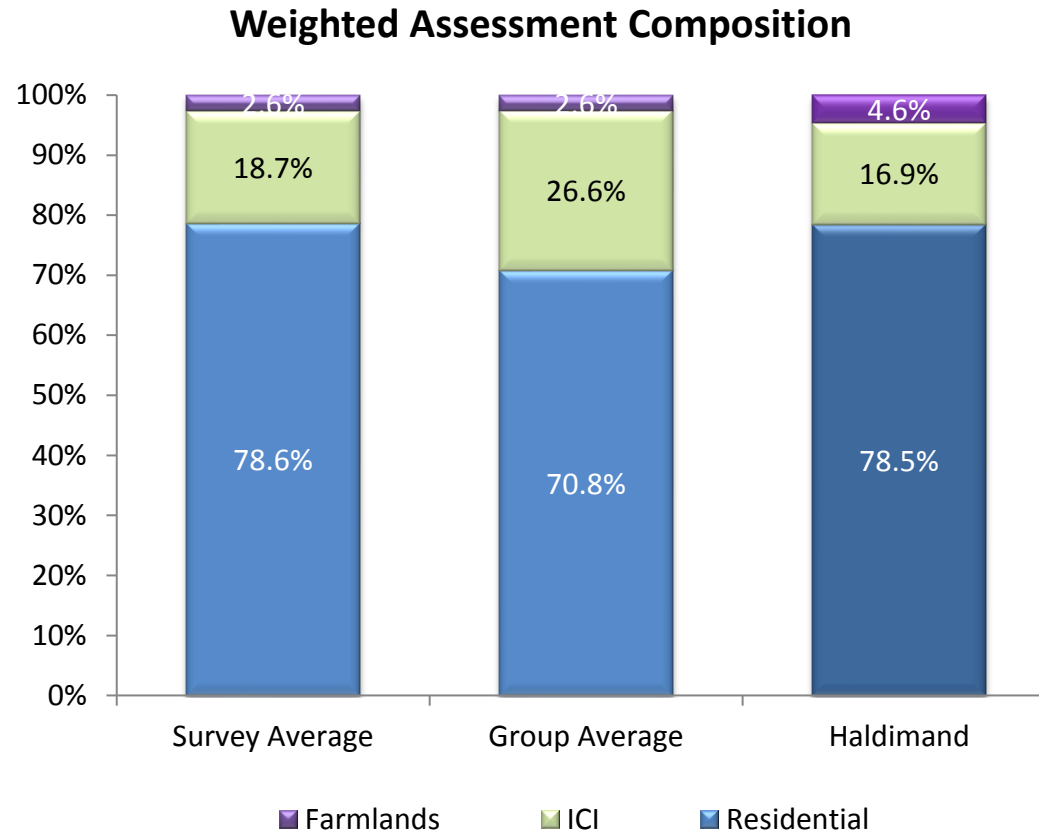
## Building Activity – Construction Value (000's)



Building activity impacts factors such as employment base, income and property values

- Over the past 5 years, res./non-res. average construction activity is a 54/46 split in the Haldimand County representing a ***good balance***

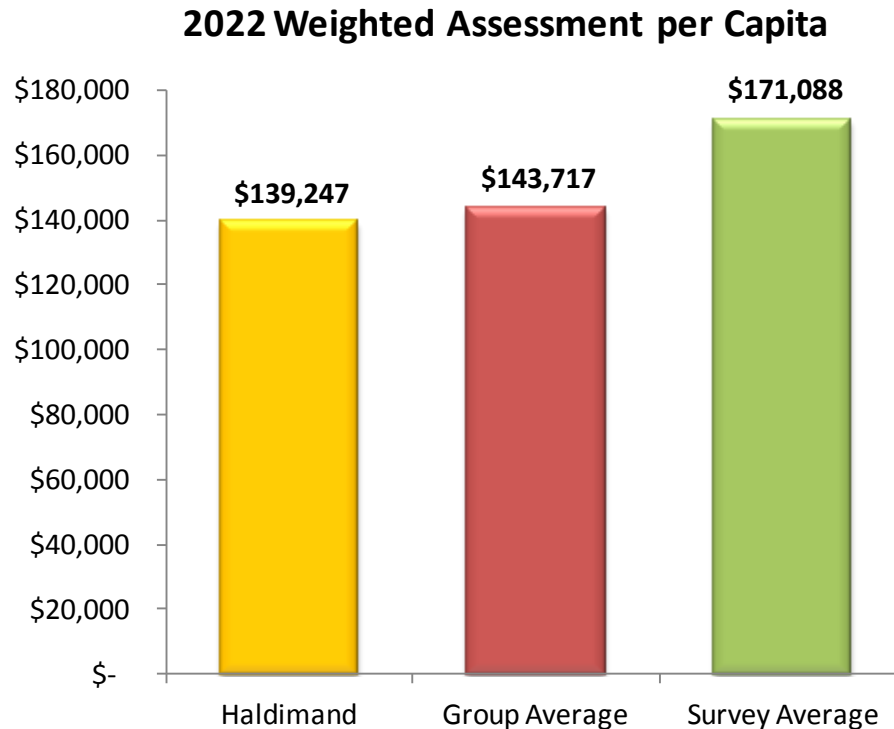
# 2022 Weighted Assessment Composition



Source: BMA Study, levy by-laws

- Weighted assessment composition is the basis upon which taxes are levied
- 78.5% of the total weighted assessment is attributed to the residential sector, with is close to the total survey average
- In relation to the peer comparators, Haldimand has a lower non-residential assessment base (ICI)

# Richness of the Assessment Base

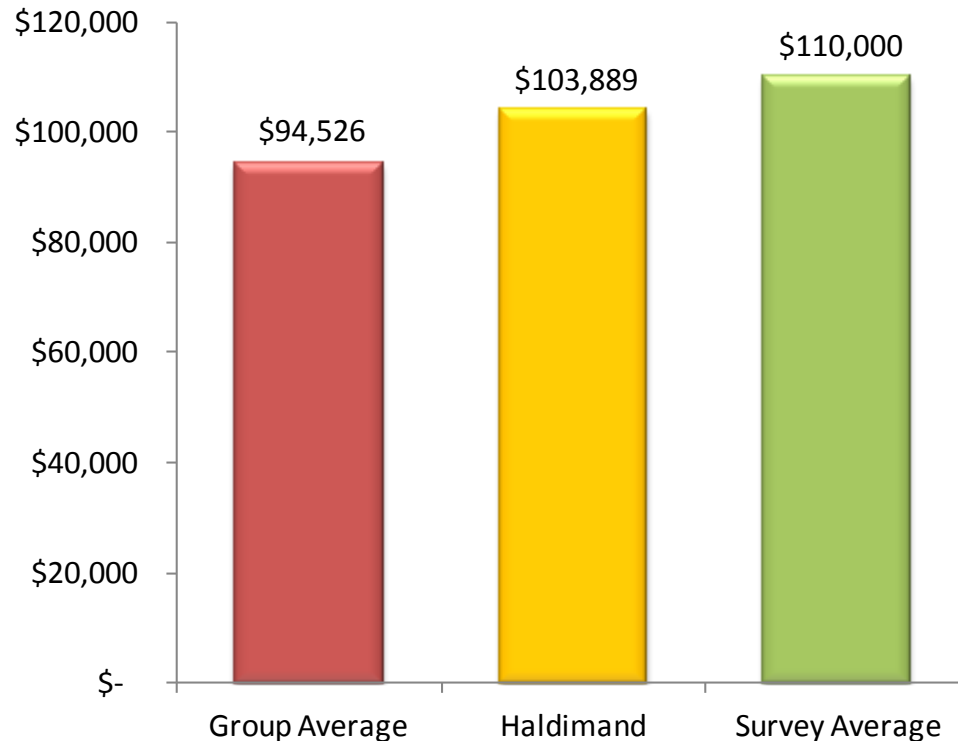


Source: BMA Study

- A strong assessment base is critical to a municipality's ability to raise revenues
- Haldimand's assessment per capita is lower than the group and survey average
- A higher proportion of farmland impacts the weighted assessment as it is discounted

# 2022 Average Household Income

**2022 Average Household Income**



Source: BMA Study

- Household income is one measure of a community's ability to pay for service
- Haldimand's average household income is higher than the group average however it is slightly below survey average



## Section 2: Financial Indicators

## Municipal Financial Indicators

- The Municipal Financial Indicators section of the report includes a number of measures such as the financial position, operating surplus, asset composition ratio, reserves, debt and taxes receivables.
- A number of industry recognized indicators used by credit rating agencies and/or recommended by Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA) and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing have been included.
- Indicators related to ***Sustainability, Flexibility and Vulnerability*** have been included.



## Municipal Financial Indicators

### *Sustainability*

The ability to provide and maintain service and infrastructure levels without resorting to unplanned increases in rates or cuts to services.

### *Vulnerability*

Addresses a municipality's vulnerability to external sources of funding that it cannot control and its exposure to risks.

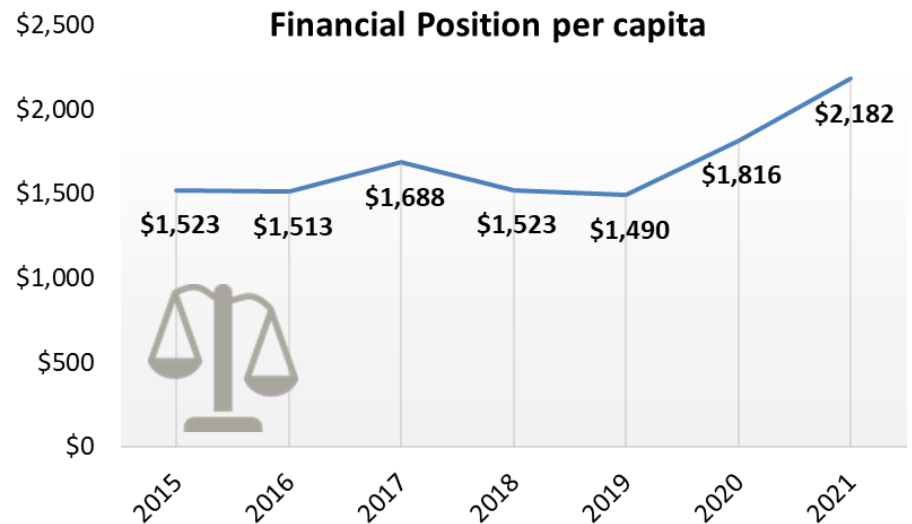
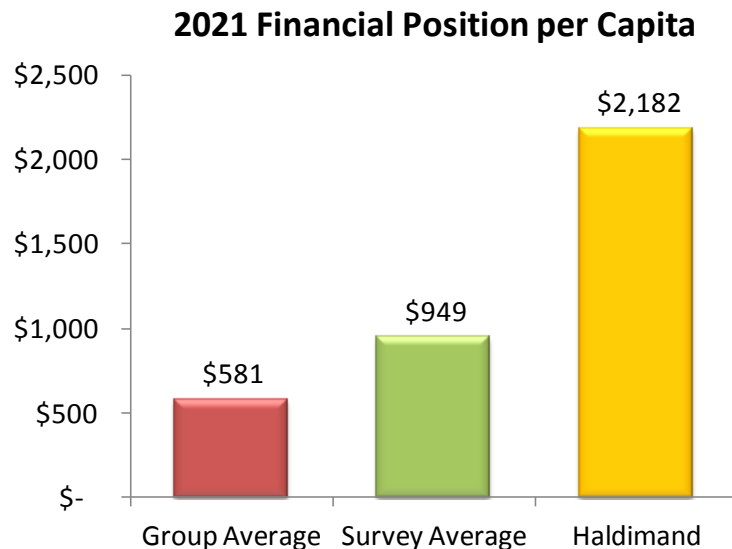
### *Flexibility*

The ability to issue debt responsibly without impacting the credit rating. Also, the ability to generate required revenues.

## Financial Position Comparisons

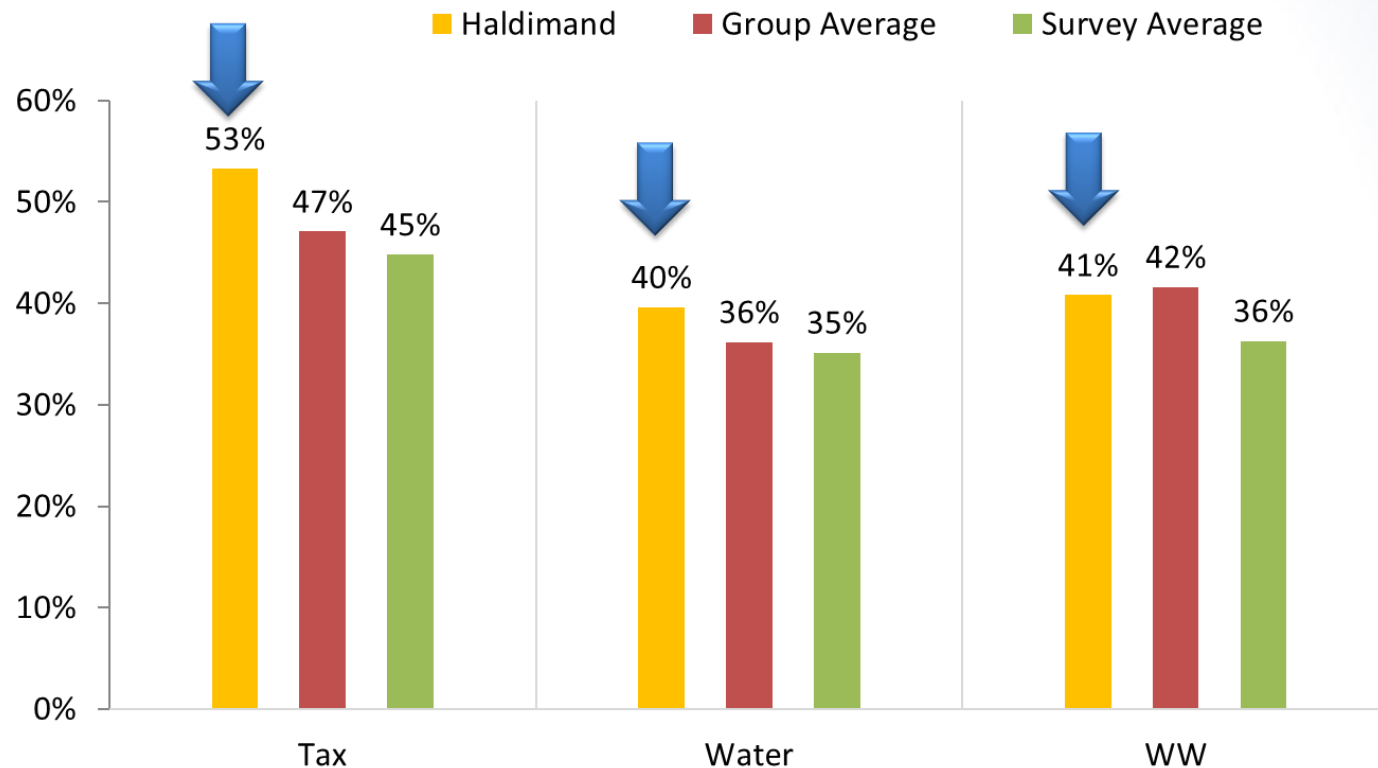
Financial Position (financial assets less liabilities) is a key sustainability indicator of a municipality's financial health

- Haldimand's per capita financial position is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the peer average and well above total survey average



Source: FIRs

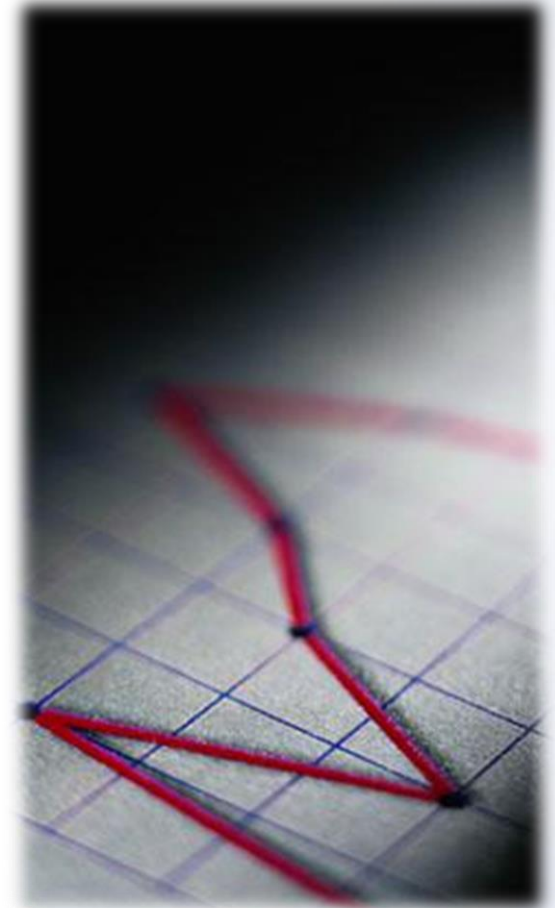
## 2021 Asset Consumption Ratios



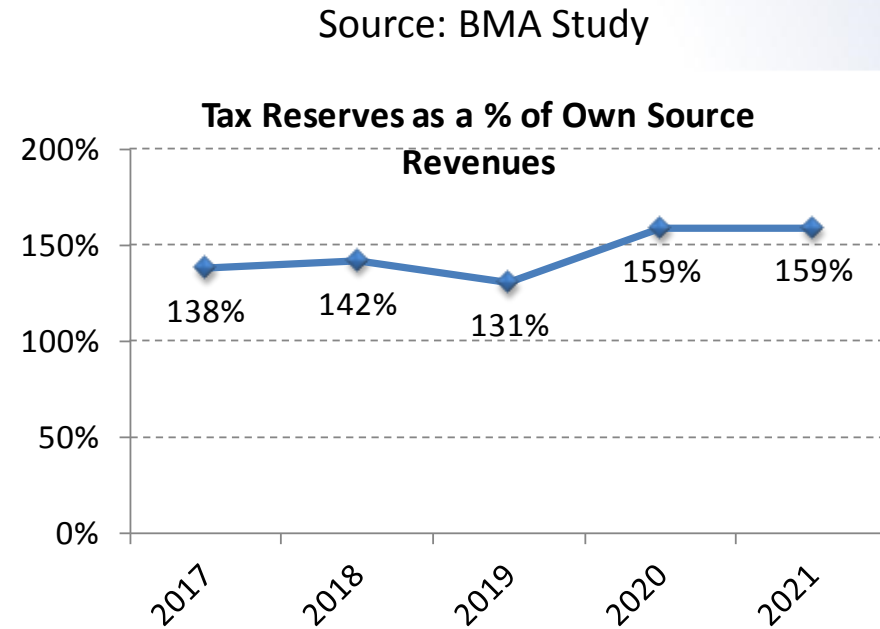
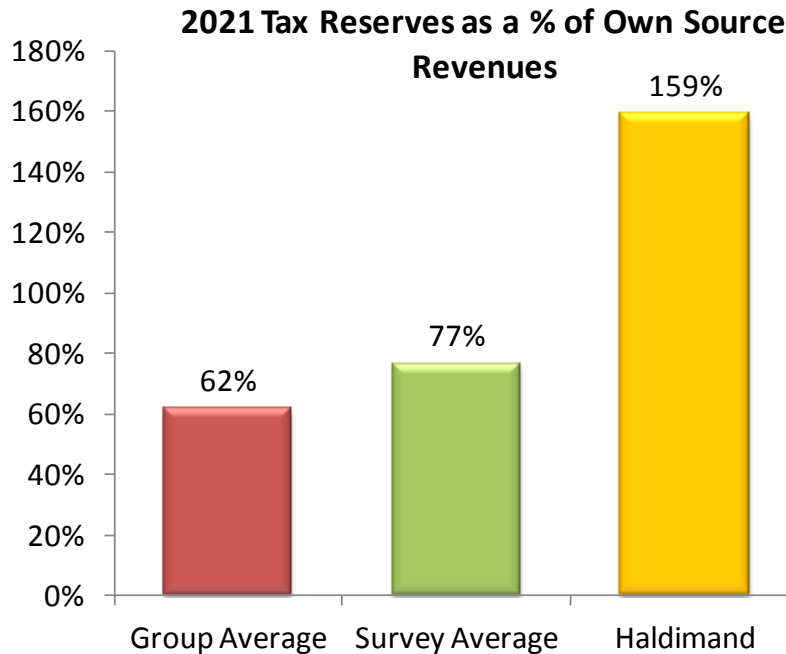
- Provides an estimate of the useful life left in a municipality's capital assets
- Haldimand's asset age is higher than survey average for tax and water which indicates a need for healthier capital reserves
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing considers a ratio of over 50% to be moderately old

# Reserves

- Reserves are a critical component of a municipality's long-term financing plan. The purpose for maintaining reserves is to:
  - Provide stability of tax and user rates;
  - Provide financing for one-time or short term requirements;
  - Make provisions for replacements/ acquisitions of assets/infrastructure;
  - Ensure adequate cash flows;
  - Provide flexibility to manage debt levels and protect the municipality's financial position.

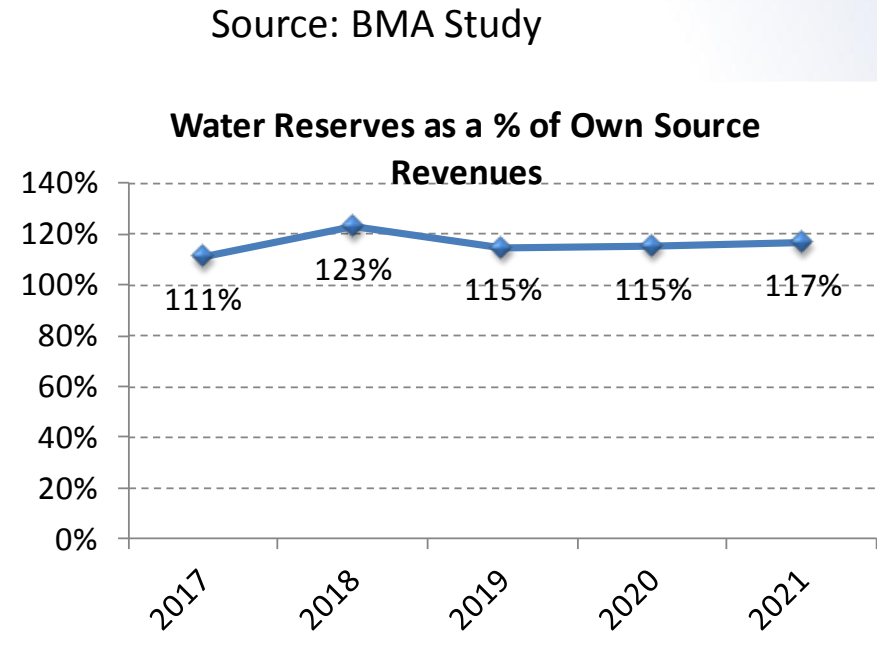
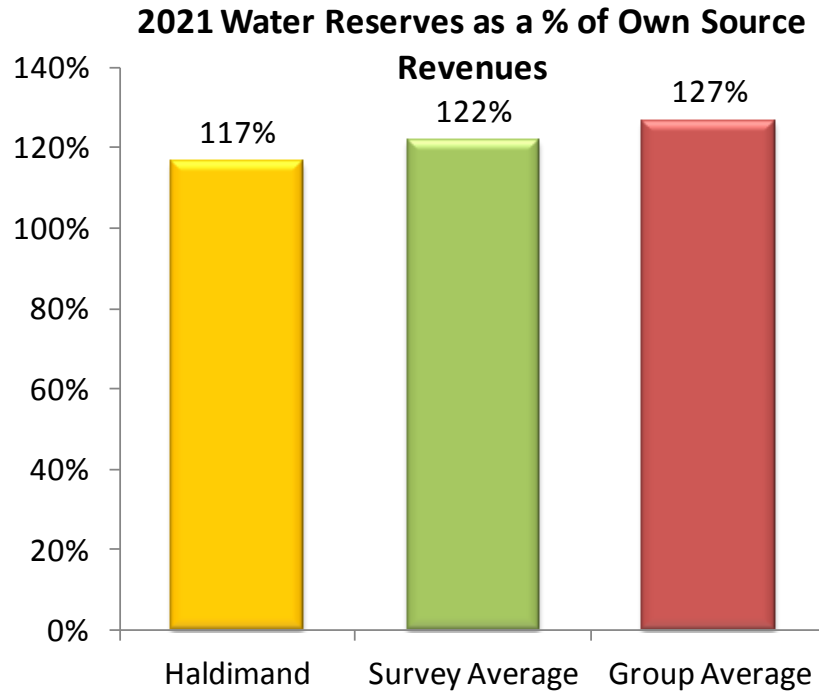


# Tax Reserve Comparative Analysis



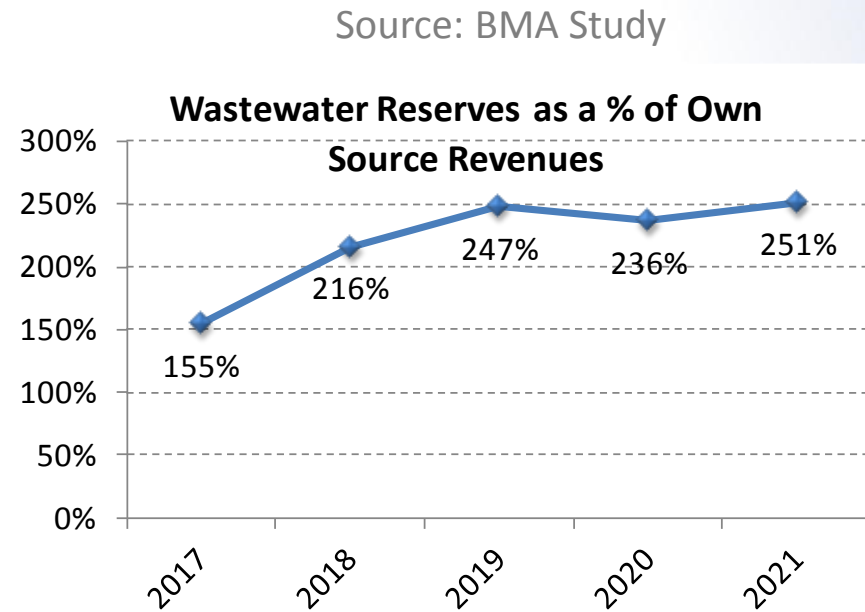
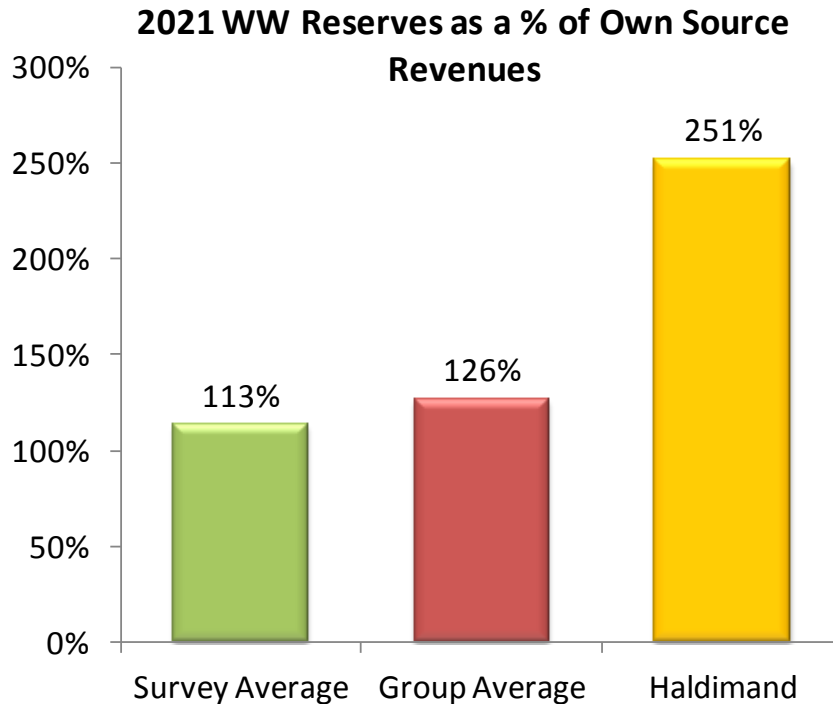
- Haldimand's Tax Reserve position is well above the group and survey average reflecting a strong financial position
- Haldimand's position is also the highest in the total survey

# Water Reserve Comparative Analysis



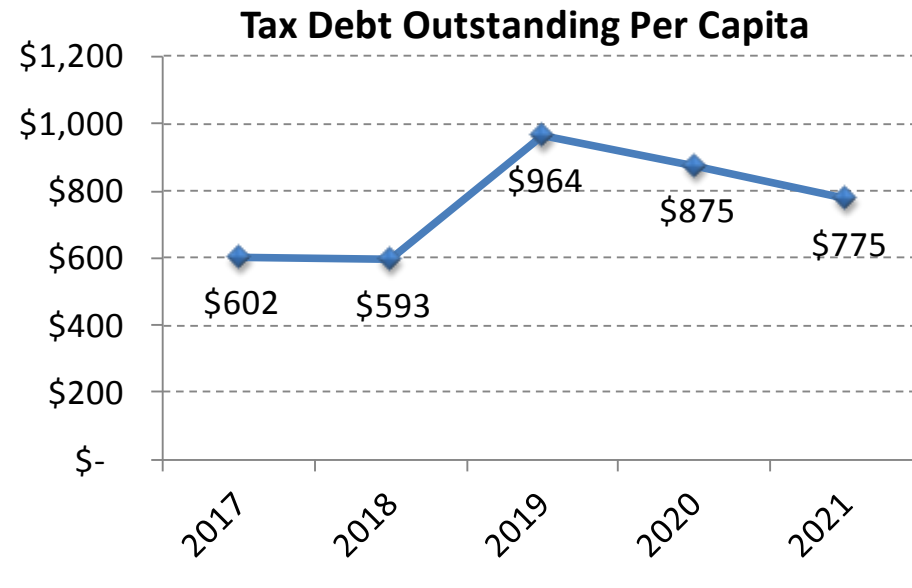
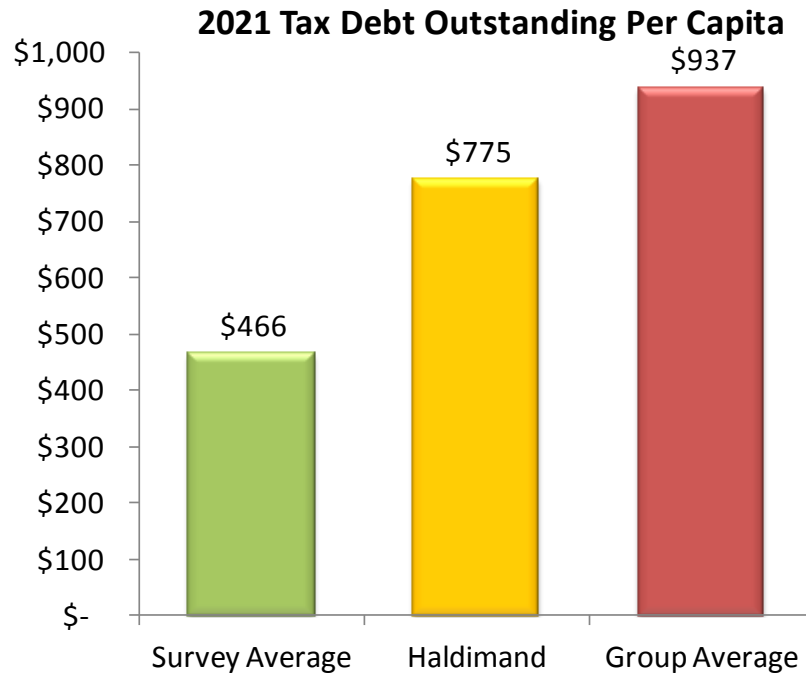
- Haldimand's Water Reserve position is above the group and survey average

# Wastewater Reserve Comparative Analysis



Haldimand's WW Reserve position is well above the group and survey average

# Tax Debt Outstanding per Capita



- Tax debt outstanding per capita is higher than the survey and lower than group average



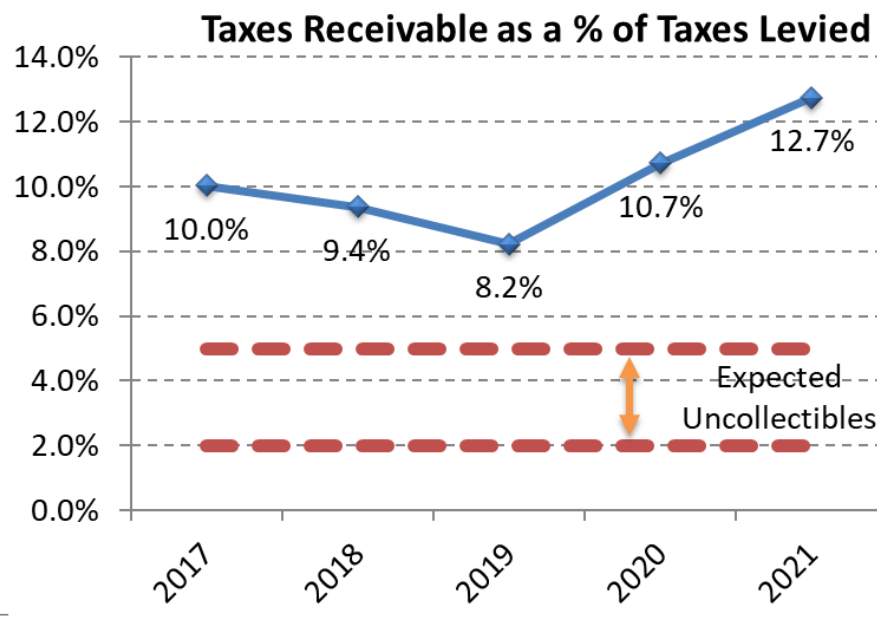
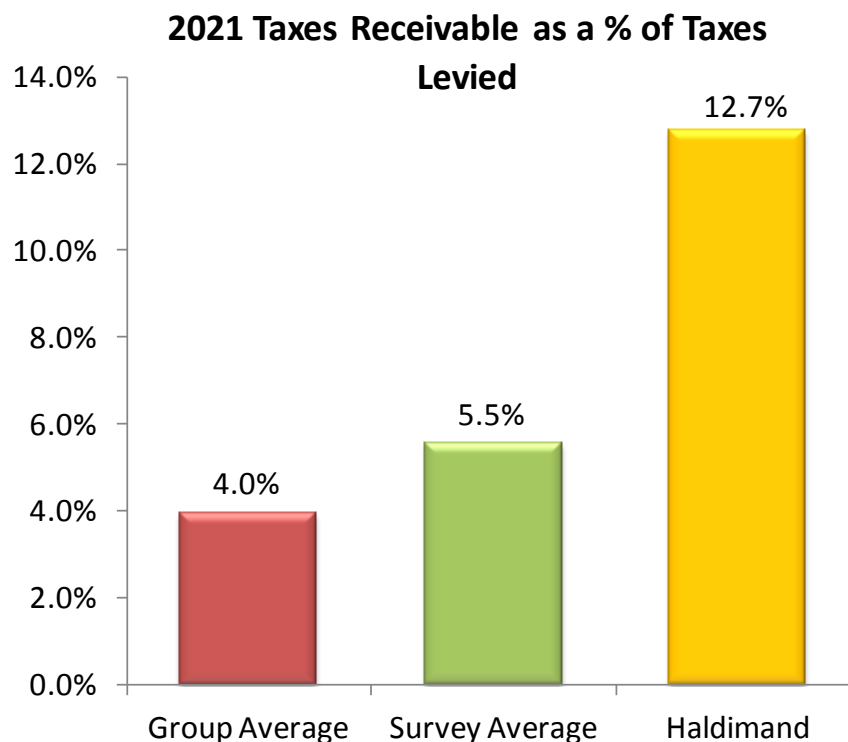
## Debt to Reserve Ratio

- Rating agencies consider a ratio of 1.0 to be financially prudent
  - For every \$1 of debt there is a \$1 of reserves
- Haldimand's ratio of 0.3 means that for every \$0.30 in debt there is \$1.00 of reserves

Municipality	2021 Debt to Reserve Ratio
Chatham-Kent	0.2
Brantford	0.4
Norfolk	0.5
Hamilton	0.6
Brant	0.7
Belleville	1.1
Kingston	1.2
Greater Sudbury	1.3
Group Average	0.8
Survey Average	0.6
Haldimand	0.3

Source: FIRs

## Taxes Receivable as a % of Taxes Levied



- Credit rating agencies assume that municipalities normally will be unable to collect 2%-5% of its property taxes within the year that taxes are due
- Haldimand's ratio has remained above the range and are higher than the group and survey averages, with an increase in 2021

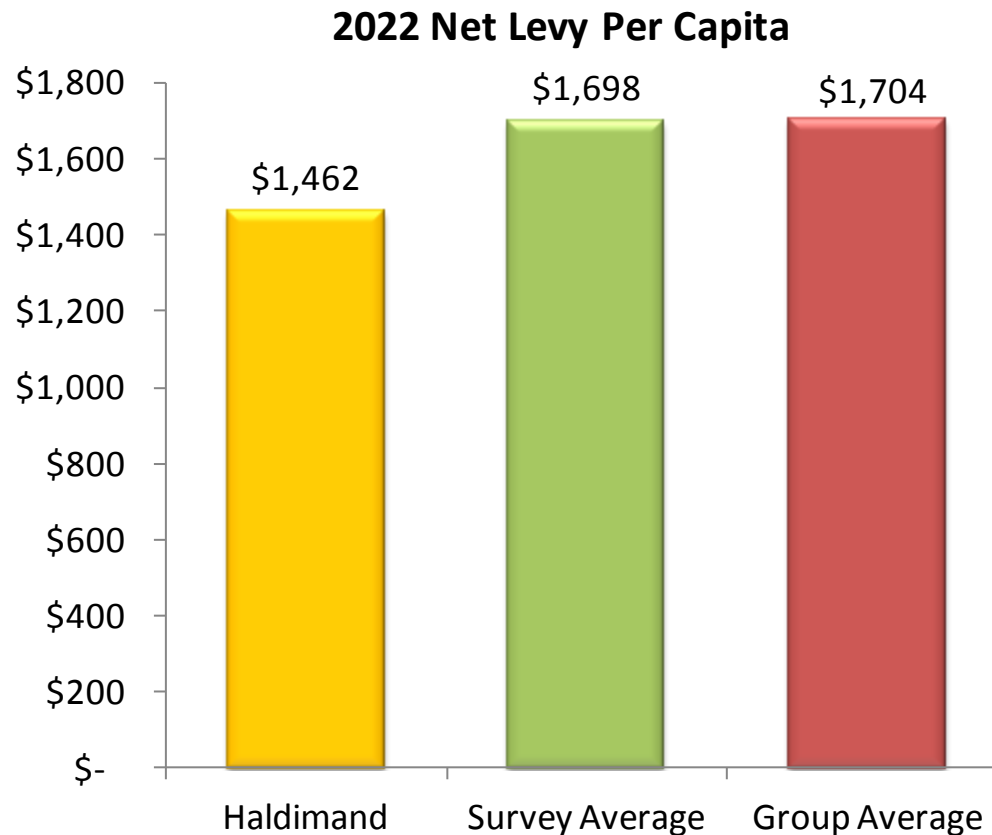


## Section 3: Cost of Service and Affordability Indicators

## Net Municipal Levy per Capita

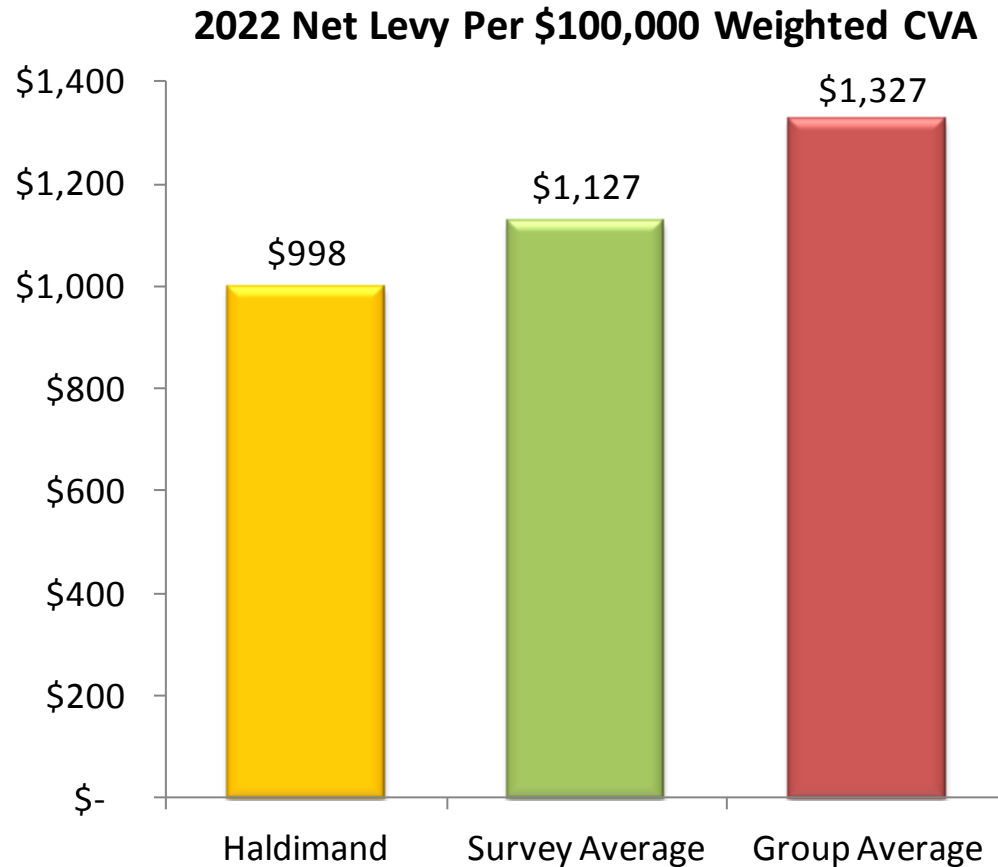
- Levy per capita does not indicate value for money or the effectiveness in meeting community objectives. Net municipal expenditures per capita may vary as a result of:
  - Different service levels
  - Different methods of providing services
  - Different residential/non-residential assessment composition
  - Socio-economic differences
  - User fee policies
  - Age of infrastructure
  - What is being collected from rates as opposed to property taxes
- As such, this is not an “apples to apples” comparison. Further analysis would be required to determine the cause of differences

## Levy Comparison



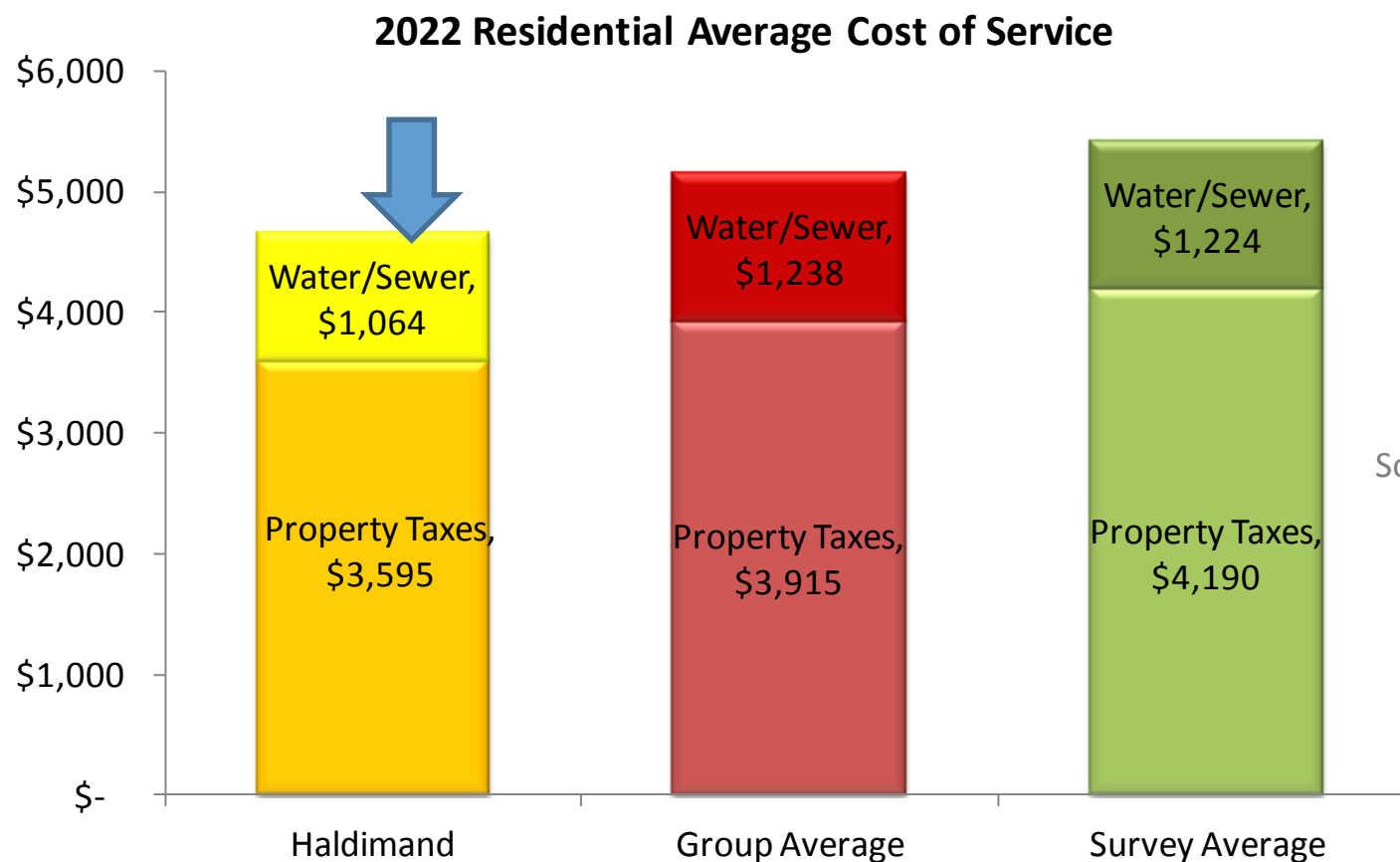
Haldimand's net levy per capita is amongst the lowest in the peer group and also lower than the total survey average

## Levy per \$100,000 Weighted CVA Comparison



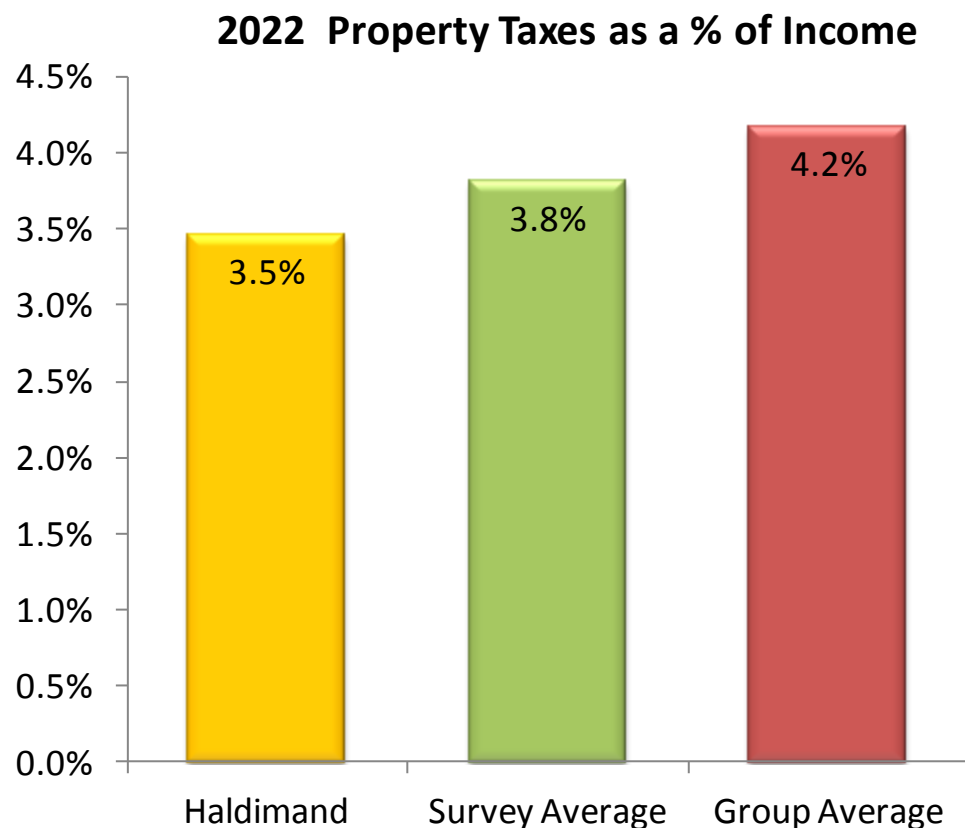
Haldimand's net levy per \$100,000 of weighted assessment is lower than the survey and the group average

# Residential Average Cost of Service



- Low municipal spending and relatively low water/sewer costs in Haldimand results in one of the lowest cost of services in the survey

## Property Taxes as a % of Average Household Income

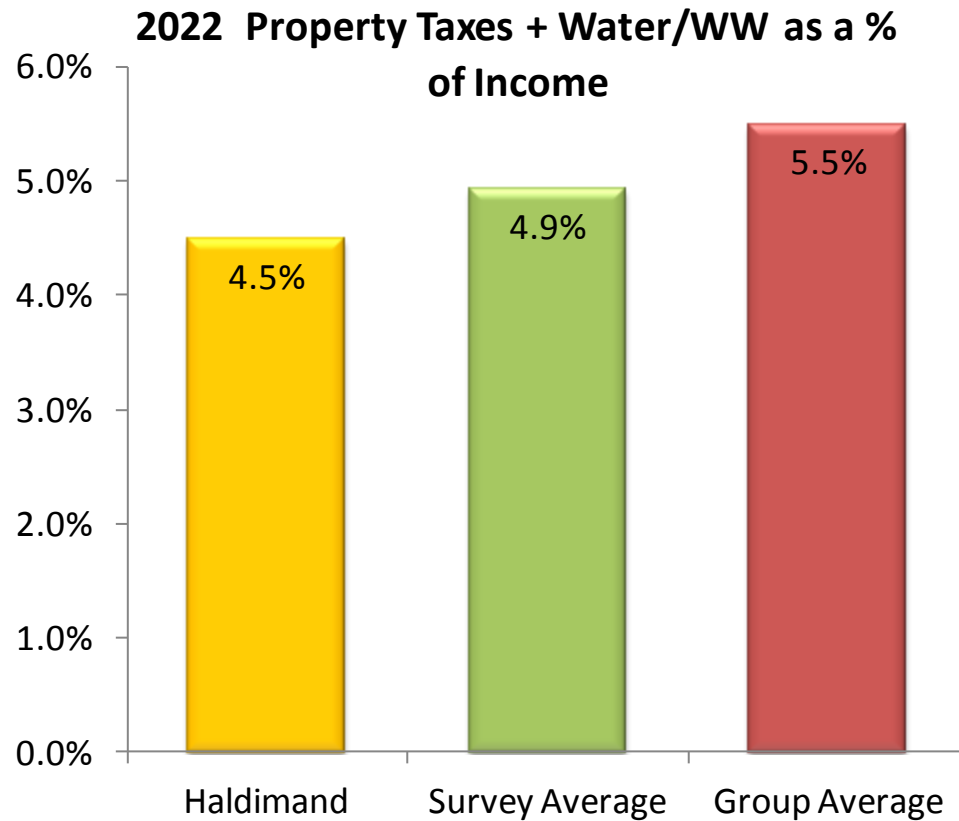


Source: BMA Study

- This chart compares the average residential property taxes in relation to income levels
- Property taxes as a % of income is below the group and survey average

















# Property Taxes & Water as a % of Income



Source: BMA Study

- The total municipal cost as a % of income is below the group and survey average

# Socio-Economic Summary

	<i>Socio-Economic Indicator</i>	<i>2022 Rating</i>
	<i>Population Growth</i>	
	<i>Population Density</i>	
	<i>Demographics</i>	
	<i>Construction Activity</i>	
	<i>Assessment Composition</i>	
	<i>Richness of the Assessment Base</i>	
	<i>Household Income</i>	



Positive















Caution



Neutral

# Summary – Financial Condition

	<i>Financial Condition</i>	<i>2022 Rating</i>
	<i>Financial Position</i>	
	<i>Tax Asset Consumption Ratio</i>	
	<i>Water Asset Consumption Ratio</i>	
	<i>WW Asset Consumption Ratio</i>	
	<i>Tax Reserves as a % of Own Source Revenue</i>	
	<i>Water/WW Reserves</i>	



Trends that should be closely monitored to align programs and services with changes



Positive









Caution



Neutral

## Summary – Flexibility Indicators

	<i>Flexibility Indicators</i>	<i>2022 Rating</i>
	<i>Tax Debt Outstanding per Capita</i>	
	<i>Debt to Reserve Ratio</i>	
	<i>Taxes Receivables as a % of Taxes Levied</i>	



Positive








Caution



Neutral

## Summary – Affordability Indicators

	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>2022 Rating</i>
	<i>Municipal Levy Per Capita</i>	✓
	<i>Municipal Levy Per \$100,000 of Weighted Assessment</i>	✓
	<i>Water/WW Costs</i>	✓
	<i>Property Tax Relative Burden</i>	✓
	<i>Property Tax Water/WW as a % of income</i>	✓



