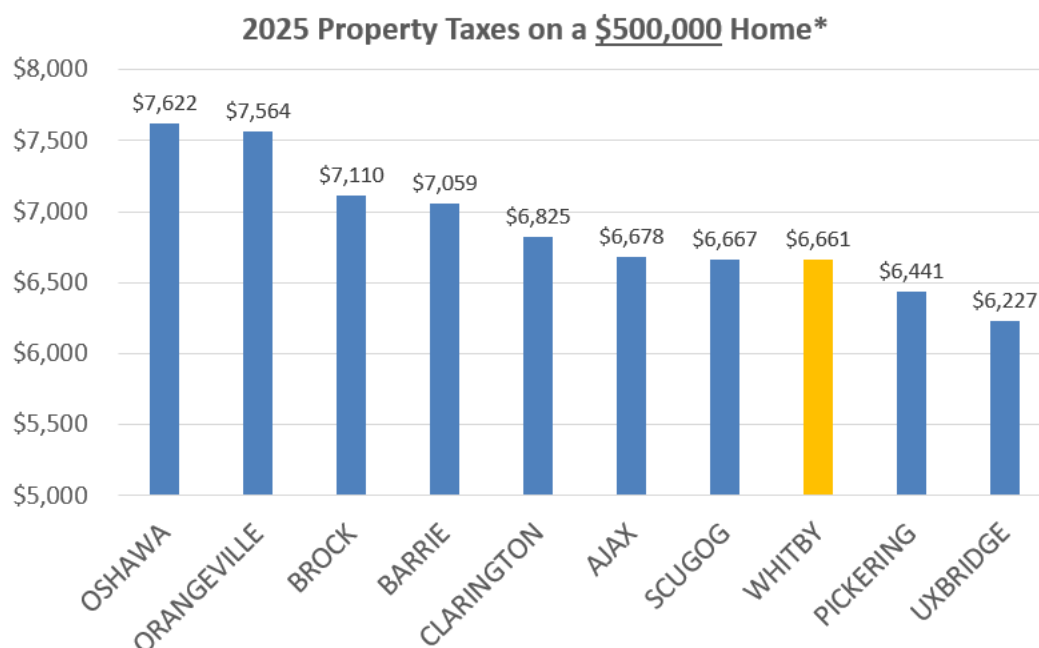


Building Whitby's annual budget is one of the Town's most **important responsibilities**. It's a careful **balancing act** as the Town invests in the services and infrastructure that residents rely on every day, while working to keep life in **Whitby affordable**.

The budget process can also be complex – that's why we're breaking down **three common misconceptions about Whitby's 2026 Budget**.

MYTH #1: Whitby has the highest property taxes in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)

FACT: In a 2025 GTA comparison of residential tax rates and annual property taxes paid on a home assessed at \$500,000, the municipality with the highest taxes sits at \$7,622, while Whitby's are \$6,661.



MYTH #2: Whitby's recent agreement with Elexicon will cost taxpayers \$12 million, directly causing a major tax hike in 2026.

FACT:

Like many communities across Ontario, Whitby is facing significant and unprecedented financial pressure due to high inflation, growth, aging infrastructure, and the ongoing impacts of provincial downloading. A significant decrease in development charges revenue that historically has helped to pay for growth is also having an impact (see chart below).

In September 2025, it was publicly [announced](#) that Elexicon and its municipal shareholders—including the Town—are making a collective equity investment of more than \$62 million into the company. Whitby Council endorsed this strategic direction at a meeting in August.

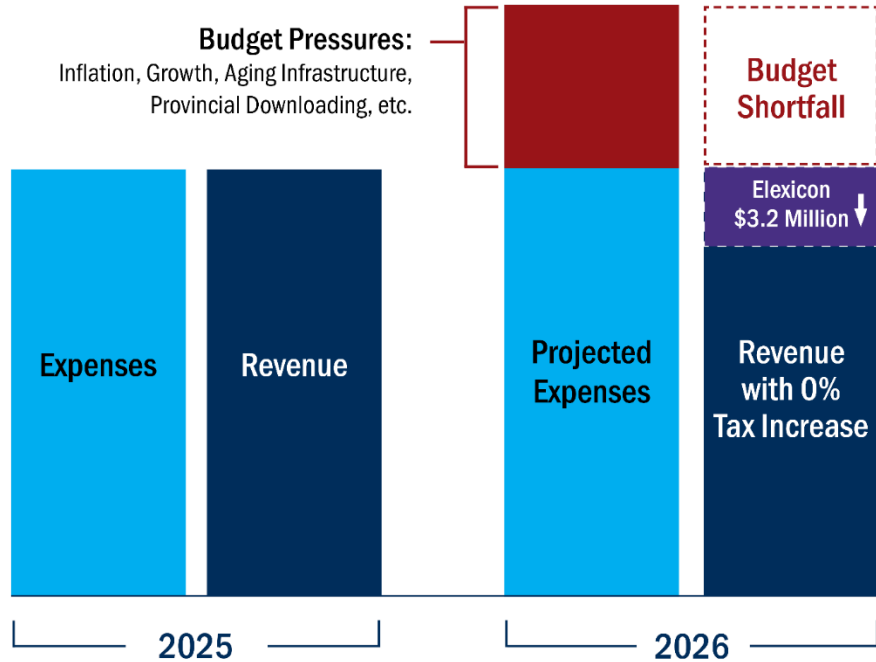
Claims that this decision will cost Whitby taxpayers \$12 million or directly create a significant property tax increase in 2026 are not accurate. The actual impact is a \$3.2 million reduction in revenue to the Town in 2026. Again, this is one of several factors that will influence next year's budget.

This shift was anticipated – Council began reducing the Town's reliance on Elexicon dividends in the operating budget as early as 2023.

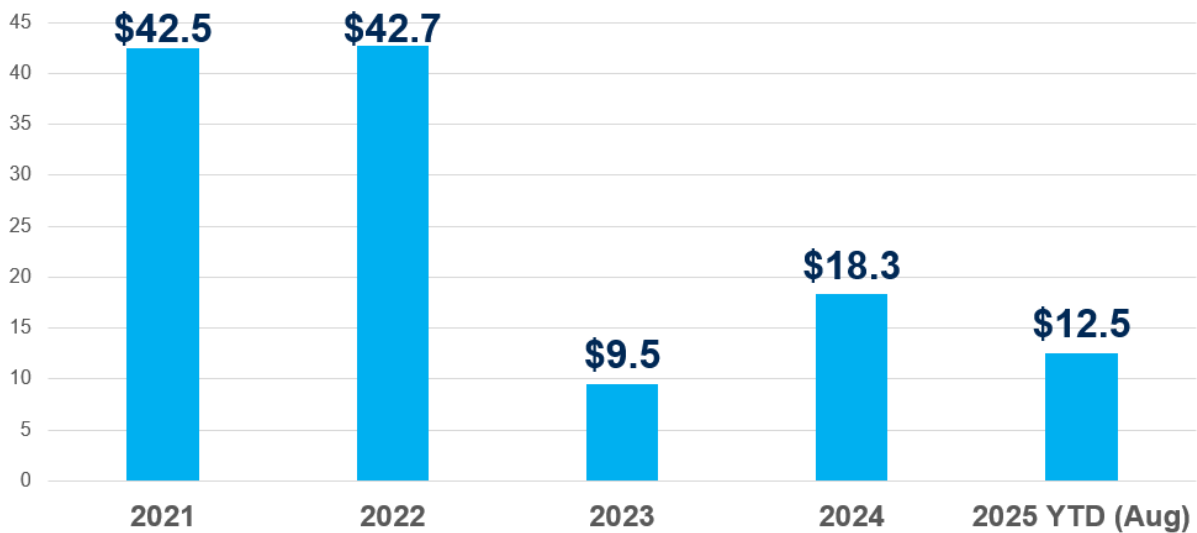
Elexicon is in a time of growth; temporarily reinvesting its dividends will benefit our community: instead of the money from those dividends coming to Whitby through general revenues, it will now come through direct investment in the community and sharing in Elexicon's growth.

This reinvestment will also create the capacity needed to support the construction of new homes, the future Whitby hospital, the new Whitby Sports Complex, and the expansion of services for families and businesses – many of which are [Community Strategic Plan](#) action items.

This approach is like how other municipalities, like Pickering, manage revenues from sources like casinos – and is designed to support Whitby's long-term growth and financial stability.



Development Charge Revenues



MYTH #3: A 0% property tax increase would maintain the status quo and not impact Town services and programs.

FACT:

Provincial legislation requires municipalities like Whitby to approve a balanced budget each year. A zero per cent property tax increase would **not** mean keeping the status quo in the services the Town delivers – with increasing costs, the Town would need to explore service reductions.

