

# Tax report finds apartment buildings on easy street

Ottawa homeowners have been making up for the reduced tax burden placed on apartment buildings in recent years.

According to a city report, homeowners have been paying \$86 more a year in taxes since the tax burden for apartment buildings started drastically falling at amalgamation.

There have been virtually no tax increases for apartment buildings over the past decade, staff say.

City council has reduced the tax burden for the multi-residential tax class four times since 2001, forcing homeowners to pick up the slack.

Treasury staff are recommending the city keep the

multi-residential tax burden unchanged for 2010.

The Eastern Ontario Landlord Association has been calling for an even lower tax burden for the multi-residential class. The association plans to make a presentation to the audit, budget and finance committee on Monday.

Of all the tax money col-

lected by the city, the multi-residential share amounts to 8.5%, down from 12.5% in 2000.

In comparing apartment buildings to condominiums, the study found apartment building owners were paying significantly less in taxes. The tax per square foot for an average apartment was 10% below

the tax for the average condo, the study says.

The city recently hired a consultant to update the research done on the multi-residential tax burden in Ottawa. The study found the city has one of the lowest tax burdens for multi-residential tax classes in Ontario.

— Jon Willing

## TLFT Note:

If only tenants could afford to live in a condo, then maybe we would be on easy street.