

BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH

TORONTO'S CITIZENS CAN CONTROL TORONTO'S AFFAIRS ONLY
THROUGH FREQUENT, PROMPT, ACCURATE AND PERTINENT INFOR-
MATION WITH REGARD TO TORONTO'S BUSINESS

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Why Voters Should
Exercise Their Civic Franchise
in Electing Its City Council
and School Boards
for 1945

1. They are electing men and women to spend for them about \$38,000,000 on current account.

Budget Year (From Estimates)	Estimated Expenditure	Debt Charges	Provincial Subsidy	General Tax Levy
1944	\$37,947,721	\$6,691,733	\$1,758,416 (2 Mills)	\$29,680,651
1943 ..	36,721,193	6,759,630	883,954 (1 Mill)	28,634,189
1942 ..	36,999,098	8,065,717	876,156 (1 Mill)	29,276,034
1941 ..	37,658,425	8,973,533	875,719 (1 Mill)	30,998,887
1940	38,332,548	8,874,721	883,296 (1 Mill)	31,712,341
1939 ..	39,218,928	9,792,318	895,512 (1 Mill)	32,253,369

N.B. {	Decrease in Debt Charges in five years	\$3,100,585
	Increase in Government Subsidy	\$ 862,904
	Decrease in Tax Levy	\$2,572,718

It is said that only a small part of current expenditure is controllable. But all of it was controllable at some time by some authority to a greater or less extent. All of it, except debt charges, is for services which are entirely controllable as to quality. Elected bodies exist not only to determine how much is to be spent, but the quality and amount of service which the expenditure would buy. The Debt Charges, inherited from other years, embalm the successes and failures of former elected bodies and those who elected them.

2. They will manage a huge community estate purchased for the most part out of borrowed funds.

Year	Total Net Debt	
	Total	Per Capita
1938	\$129,560,246	\$200.00
1939	116,354,424	179.25
1940	109,780,968	169.39
1941	97,679,686	148.99
1942	86,705,177	129.58
1943	80,025,482	118.68

This does not mean of course that the capital assets have shrunk—only that more of them are not mortgaged. There is annually a certain amount of depreciation on structures. But the decrease in debt is much greater than the shrinkage through depreciation. In pre-war years the city decreased its capital liabilities. In post-war years the city will not be able to follow a drastic pay-as-you-go policy. Our elected bodies will largely determine in post-war years **how and to what extent** the city's reserve of credit, built up by debt reduction in pre-war years, is to be utilized.

Particularly in view of the fact that the electors will not have either draft current or capital budgets to guide them, are not the two considerations mentioned above of sufficient importance to warrant some thought and effort in selecting worthy and capable representatives. Is this not a sufficiently important issue to bring out a large vote?

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