

MPAC delivers free information about your property

No one likes thinking about their property tax assessment, but wouldn't you love it if there was a way to help is make more sense to you? You should know that the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, or MPAC, undertook some major changes last year, and one of their new and helpful features is the About My Property™ application available online through its website, www.mpac.ca. Through About My Property™, Ontario property owners can get free access to property assessment information, site information and recent sales information for their own property and similar properties.

All you need to use this service is an Internet connection, a valid e-mail address, and the User ID and password that are located on the bottom right-hand corner of your 2008 Property Assessment Notice. If you happen to own more than one property in Ontario, be aware that each property has its own unique User ID and password. The first time you log into the About My Property™ site, you will be asked to create a new password and then to re-log in to confirm it. Once you do that, and enter some other information such as your contact phone number and e-mail address, you're ready to roll.

About My Property™ offers property owners two free reports. The first, called the Property Profile Report, you will see as soon as you log in to the application. This report includes your assessment roll information (roll number), site information (such as the frontage, depth and total size of your lot), recent sales information (month and year of sale, plus last sale price) and structural information (such as the square footage of your home).

The second, called a Properties of Interest Report, allows you to compare your property with up to 24 other properties of your choosing, based on information such as the current value assessment, sale and site information, and residential structural details, to determine whether you believe your property's assessed value is accurate.

Click on the "My Neighbourhood Properties" tab at the top of the screen to select comparable properties using an interactive map. You can select any properties you like, but keep in mind that selecting homes that are similar in size, age and style to your own will offer you the best idea of what your home should be valued at.

What if you don't have Internet access or an e-mail address? Last fall, MPAC launched a pilot partnership with a number of municipalities and library boards across Ontario to offer access to About My Property™ free of charge. The program is available in 268 municipalities, in either a local municipal office or library [\[insert Ottawa locations here\]](#).

If after viewing your reports, you feel that your assessment is inaccurate, you can click on the RFR (Request for Reassessment) link at the top right of the page to find out more about how your property was assessed and learn how to request a reassessment from MPAC.

Property tax assessments can be confusing, but MPAC's revamped web site and the About My Property feature offer property owners plenty of valuable information to help clarify your assessment, available at the click of a mouse.

Readers are encouraged to send questions or request topics to be discussed in this column. Please send your requests to info@thenewsemc.ca