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Pg. 11



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Anticipating Santa's arrival

The annual Georgetown Lions Club and Acton Firefighters Association Santa Claus Parades were held Saturday afternoon under near-perfect conditions and the arrival of Santa Claus was anticipated eagerly by thousands. (Above) Six-year-old Noah Biesen-thal moved out from the crowd and made himself comfortable for a view of the Georgetown parade while (right) Emma Cunningham, 2, and Amy Ross look excitedly down the street as Santa Claus comes into view during the Acton Parade. **For more photos look inside today's Holiday Gift Guide section and visit www.theifp.ca/photos/**

Top photo by Jon Borgstrom
Right photo by Ray Lavender



Region tax hike will cost you \$4

By **BOB MITCHELL**
Special to The IFP

It's expected the average Halton homeowner will pay a Regional tax hike about the same as the cost of a case of pop on sale or a Happy Meal at a local fast food restaurant in 2014.

Actually, on paper, there will be no increase- not even a penny- for Regional services, which will likely stay the same at \$766 per household.

But when you add in police services, it means the average Halton homeowner's Regional portion of their overall tax bill will increase by \$4 based on the budget presented Nov. 13 to councillors.

Regional council still must approve the \$225 million budget, which it's expected to decide Dec. 11.

Under the proposal presented by Mark Scinocca, Halton's commissioner of finance and Regional treasurer, a typical Halton home assessed at \$350,000 will generate \$1,207 in property taxes, an increase of \$4 over what property owners paid for a similarly-assessed home in 2012.

See CARR, pg. 3

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