

Committee okays \$19M capital budget

By **CYNTHIA GAMBLE**
Staff Writer

A \$6.2 million expenditure on improvements and expansion to the Town's public works complex was hailed during budget committee's 2014 capital budget meeting last week.

Budget committee (all members of council) approved the \$19.2 million capital budget without adding or deleting any of the 76 staff recommended items—the decision still needs to be ratified by council. Discussions on the 2014-operating budget begin in January.

Budget committee chair Moya Johnson thanked staff for a budget that made “our jobs easy” but noted there was likely heated discussions by departments when selecting priority items.

The largest dollar capital project scheduled for 2014 is the \$6.2 million on the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre complex, including parking lot and stormwater management system. Money to pay for it will come from gas tax revenues, reserves and public works and roads development charges. There are currently health and safety issues with the mechanical facilities prompting Councillor Michael O'Leary to say the facility's deterioration made him want to take a shower after a recent tour.

The new Operations facility—built to LEED standard—will be designed to accommodate the Town's population growth and will include new



MOYA JOHNSON

mechanical bays, employee change rooms, lunchroom, demolition and replacement of the stores building, and office space to replace the temporary trailer offices. Five other large ticket items include:

- \$2.2 million for pavement management projects (Dawson, Irwin, Eden Place, Mackenzie, Lewis, Weber);

- \$1.88 million additional for the Acton Arena twinning construction that includes a cost escalation from the original 2010 construction cost (\$10.3 million), cost of LEED certification and possible integration of the skate park;

- \$830,000 Fourth Line (from 10 Sideroad to 15 Sideroad), upgrade to asphalt;

- \$725,000, 17 Sideroad asphalt resurfacing;

- \$506,000, equipment replacement;

- \$500,000 to develop buy/lease partnership projects to enhance the Seniors

Centres as well as youth centre initiatives. Recreation and Parks Director Terry Alyman said the Town is working on a solution for additional space for the Georgetown Seniors Centre.

Other items up for approval include a traffic signal light at 15 Sideroad/Eighth Line intersection; eastbound right turn lane on Guelph St. into GDHS at Albert St., Mill St Acton improvements, bike lanes on Miller Dr., Chris Walker Trail improvements and various parks upgrades.

For a complete list of the 2014 capital budget's 76 approved items go to The IFP's website, www.theifp.ca



A prickly high-five

Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games mascot PACHI the Porcupine dropped by Pineview Public School for a visit recently after some Pineview students had entered designs for the mascot. As PACHI danced at the front of the assembly, student Elnathan Paudel gave PACHI the 'high-five'.

Photo by Ted Brown

Carr says eighth straight year with zero per cent increase is 'remarkable'

Continued from pg. 1

Homeowners will also pay an additional \$35 in combined water and utilities next year on average.

A projected 1.5 per cent increase in assessment is being used to offset costs to keep the non-police costs down to a zero increase for the Region's tax supported programs and services.

Regional taxes pay for a variety of Halton services such as water and wastewater, regional roads and planning, paramedic services, public health and social assistance, various children's and seniors'

services, non-profit housing, heritage programs and emergency management and economic development.

Although the 1.5 per cent increase assessment isn't carved in stone, Scinocca said he's confident the projection is solid.

Several months ago councillors directed finance officials to create a budget of either at or below the rate of inflation and no more than a 1.5 per cent increase.

"This will be the eighth consecutive year we have had an average zero per cent increase," Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr said in a news release issued after

the budget proposal was presented. "It is a remarkable achievement to be able to maintain service levels without increasing taxes and while maintaining our triple A credit rating.

"A triple A credit rating combined with our low taxes makes Halton a great place to do business and results in jobs for our community from companies such as Lowes, Target, Siemens, Toronto Premium Outlets and Gypsum Technologies Inc."

Scinocca said the zero per cent tax increase was achieved by "enhancing or maintaining" Halton's core services."

For many of the programs delivered by Halton, there was no increase in costs. Increased revenues and higher than expected provincial subsidies also helped achieve the zero per cent tax increase, Scinocca said.

The Region will see a reduction of \$356,000 in social service costs primarily because of additional provincial subsidies and a 14 per cent decrease in caseloads, Scinocca said.

The proposed budget also maintains the Region's continuation of its \$3 billion capital program over the next 10 years.

HASSELL

AUTOMOTIVE SALES & SERVICE

45 MOUNTAINVIEW RD. N., GEORGETOWN

Includes:

- Change engine oil & filter, lubricate (excluding synthetic)
- Rotate & balance tires as necessary
- Check all fluid levels
- Check brakes, steering, suspension, exhaust & fuel system
- Check vehicle for tune-up
- Scan computer for codes

As our **thank-you** to all of our great customers, regulars and new, please accept from us:

12-pack of Pop • \$5. Tim Horton's gift card • Jug of Windshield Washer Fluid

To book an Appointment, please call: 905-877-7958 or www.hassellautomotive.com

Our 14th Annual

SUPER FALL Special

\$59.95

plus HST

TECH-NET
Professional
AUTO SERVICE