

Three injured in home invasion

Three men were injured during a home invasion at a Ewing St. apartment Sunday night.

Police say at about 9:55 p.m. the men heard their dogs barking and went to the front door to investigate. One of the men opened the door to three men who forced their way into the apartment.

The first suspect had an expandable baton and struck one of the residents in the head several times. The second suspect produced a machete and assaulted the two other residents. The suspects took several items from the apartment including a wallet and cash, and then fled on foot.

One of the victims suffered several lacerations to the head and was transported to Georgetown Hospital for treatment. The injuries weren't life threatening. The two other victims sustained minor injuries.

The suspects are all described as: black males, early to mid-20s, medium build, 6' or taller wearing hooded sweatshirts. One of the suspects had a scruffy moustache, and goatee. Another was described as having a baby face.

Halton Police don't consider the incident random.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Sergeant Nick Milinovich at 905-878-5511 ext. 2415 or Crime Stoppers at 1 800 222-TIPS(8477), through the web at www.haltoncrimestoppers.com or by texting 'Tip201' with your message to 274637(crimes).

A toiletry bag containing change and prescription medication was taken from an unlocked vehicle parked at 348 Guelph St. about 12:45 p.m. Monday.

Budget is set at \$38,473,500

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By the end of the night, Halton Hills residents will be looking at an increase of \$18 for every \$100,000 of home assessment on their Town tax bills this year. So combined, the Town's 4.9 per cent hike with the 0 per cent increases of the Region and Education portions, the overall tax impact on local residents will be 1.9 per cent or \$18 per \$100,000 of residential assessment. For the average homeowner with a house assessment of \$400,000, that means the tax increase will be 4X\$18 or \$72.

Halton Hills budget committee (all members of council) approved the 2014 operating budget of \$38,473,500— Councillor Clark Somerville was the lone dissenter. He said he was frustrated by committee's acceptance of the half million dollar decision packages.

"What change did we make," he asked.

But Mayor Rick Bonnette said, "Although we are making decisions tonight, the majority of work has occurred in the

past few months... Many questions have been asked and answered. A lot of dialogue has occurred to get us where we are today.

"One, we are on track to meet our Long Range Financial Plan. ...Two, we are contributing significantly to our reserves. Three, the proposed combined tax increase of 1.9 % is very reasonable for the services we are getting and four, our community continues to be one of the most livable in the country."

The budget still needs to be ratified by council at the Jan. 27 council meeting.

The budget includes a base budget increase of 2.4 per cent to maintain the existing services of the Town, the continuation of the 1.2 per cent Fire Levy (to hire two firefighters and to help pay for the Fire Services facilities and the 1.3 per cent Arena Program Levy to pay for the new arenas.

The 4.9 per cent increase is an amount pared down from the original starting point of 5 per cent presented at the August 2013 budget meeting.



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