

Mayor is confident town will recoup some costs

From pg. 1

"I think it's very reasonable. It's just a little bit more than a large Tim's (coffee)."

Unlike the Town, Skidmore said there are no disaster relief funds available for HHH to access.

The Town of Halton Hills' costs from the ice storm are about \$1.8 million and they have been submitted to the Province's Ice Storm Assistance Program.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette said the Town has heard back that it's eligible for about half of that— \$900,000— but the Ministry is now going through the submission to determine what the Town will actually receive.

Bonnette said he has no idea how much the Town will get, but added, "I think we will get something."

The Town has already paid its ice storm bills out of its reserve fund.

"We are one of a few municipalities that were ahead of the game," said Bonnette.

About five years ago the Town designated a part of its budget for inclement weather, he

said. Whatever financial relief the Town receives from the Province will go to replenish that fund.

"I think we're going to have to increase it," said Bonnette.

As a result of the storm that coated trees and hydro lines with 30 mm of ice, and the massive cleanup of trees and branches, the Town has hired four new permanent public works staff members.

Halton Region, which is responsible for evacuation centres across Halton, will be buying a generator for the Gellert Centre, which did not have one during the ice storm.

Skidmore said HHH learned some lessons from the storm.

"We had a good emergency plan for operations, but didn't have a corporate emergency preparedness plan," said Skidmore.

HHH has added sections for communications to its plan and different roles for management staff.

A mutual aid list has also been developed so contact information for other utilities will

Continued on page 5

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