

Operating budget tackled Jan. 19

From pg. 1

Fourth to Fifth Line

Budget Committee heard from Scott Barclay, president of Halton Hills Dog Owners Group, who requested additional lighting and repositioning of lighting for the Cedarvale Dog Park.

Jennifer Everson, an organizer for 3 Musketeers Golf Tournament told committee members that the group had raised \$40,000 which is earmarked for the multi-purpose court at Acton Arena and Community Centre and urged the Town to move ahead with building it this year.

Both requests were approved in the budget. Solar lighting will be considered for the dog park.

Also included is \$100,000 to replant some of the approximately 1,900 trees lost as a result of the ice storm.

"We would look to replant the largest trees we could recognizing the amount of space we have available within the boulevard," said Chris Mills, the Town's Director of Infrastructure Services.

Councillor Ann Lawlor asked if a schedule for the tree planting could be made public. Mills said once it's known, Town staff could look at informing Council and the community of the schedule.

Superintendent of Public Works Dick Spear said on the bright side, the ice storm took down some ash trees, which are another issue the Town will have to deal with. He said ash trees "are just dead trees standing" due to the emerald ash borer. Councillor Moya Johnson suggested the Town provide an opportunity for homeowners to contribute to the cost of the replacement trees.

Other items included in the budget are \$325,000 to replace a fire department heavy rescue unit, \$324,000 to purchase books, magazines, DVDs etc. for the library, and \$250,000 to replace sports field lighting at Georgetown Fairgrounds ball diamonds.

The budget committee meets again Jan. 19 to tackle the operating budget.



The look, the sound and excitement of The Beatles live performances will be re-created at the John Elliott Theatre when the international cast of "Beatlemania Revisited" comes to Georgetown for a special return engagement on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 8 p.m. Tickets to see Beatlemania Revisited at the John Elliott Theatre at 8 p.m. are value-priced at only \$35 adults, \$30 seniors and are available at the theatre Box Office, 9 Church Street, Georgetown, by phone 905-877-370.

Supplied photo

Hospital hopes to resolve the issue 'soon'

From pg. 1

Gunaratnam.

For privacy reasons, Roberts wouldn't say why Gunaratnam is unavailable, but said it was unexpected and began just before Christmas.

"It is temporary and we're hoping to get it resolved soon," said Roberts.

Roberts said the Georgetown OB unit is still open, there have been no layoffs, and staff are continuing to provide "advice and care for patients in their pre-natal period."

Gunaratnam's patients who are due to have their babies soon are being referred to Milton Hospital or another hospital of their choice.

"Halton Healthcare Services has a comprehensive process in place to communicate with all expectant mothers to ensure they get the safest care possible," said Roberts. "We are reaching out to the families to keep them up to date about the process. We will resume labour and delivery services at Georgetown Hospital as soon as possible."

Roberts said there was another obstetrician working at the hospital over a year ago but she left, and the hospital has been attempting to recruit another one, but hasn't yet been successful.

Roberts wouldn't speculate how long it would be before Gunaratnam returns.

Firefighters wing it

Members of the Halton Hills Fire Department responded to an animal water rescue at Fairy Lake in Acton at around 1:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

Halton Regional Police were on scene upon arrival and directed fire staff to a goose with a wing tip frozen in the ice. Fire staff freed the bird's wing from the ice using a rescue tool. The goose then walked away.

"Being a fire department with a heart, we responded to the situation without disruption to our service," said HHFD Chief Brent Marshall.

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