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Hockey Heritage's choice, pg. 46

64 Pages

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Thursday, January 22, 2015

Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper serving Acton & Georgetown

## Quebec visit

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette made a quick trip to Quebec to press for Buy America reforms.

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## COMING DOWN

The former Holy Cross Church is being demolished to make way for a seniors' residence.

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A Milton Fire Department crew battled a fire on Regional Rd. 25, which included a house, garage and vehicles on Wednesday.

Photo by Graham Paine, Metroland Media Group

## Fire crews battle house fire

The Milton Fire Department (MFD) and Halton Hills Fire Department were at the scene of a fully-involved house fire yesterday at 9340 Regional Road 25 in Halton Hills on the border with Milton.

Huge black plumes of smoke could be seen over Milton's skyline, as crews worked to extinguish the blaze at the single-storey home, which is north of Five Sideroad. Two occupants of the home were taken to Milton District Hospital as a precaution for smoke inhalation, according to

MFD deputy chief Dave Pratt.

It appears the fire started around 11:30 a.m. in the garage and spread to the house. There were eight trucks on scene, including three tankers and an aerial.

It was made more challenging by a fully-involved Volkswagen Jetta parked in front of the garage. There were also multiple explosions coming from the garage, which firefighters say were likely caused by aerosol cans.

## 2015 taxes will go up

By Lisa Tallyn  
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Halton Hills residents will be paying more property tax this year.

The Town portion of the tax bill is going up \$18 for every \$100,000 of home assessment after Halton Hills budget committee (all members of council) approved the \$40,841,300 2015 operating budget with a 4.9 per cent increase Monday. The budget is expected to be ratified by Council on Monday (Jan. 26).

So combining the Town's hike with the expected Region's 1.6 per cent increase and zero increase in the education rate the overall tax impact on local residents would be 2.6 per cent or \$23 per \$100,000 of assessment— or a \$92 rise in taxes for the average homeowner (with a home assessed at \$400,000).

Halton Region's budget is slated for approval Jan. 28.

The Town's base budget is up by 2.7 per cent, plus 1.2 per cent for the fire levy (to support the hiring of fire personnel and help with Fire Department capital projects), and 1 per cent for the arena program (to finance the Acton Arena construction program), bringing the total to 4.9 per cent.

Town taxes represent 42 per cent of the homeowner's tax bills

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