

Homeowners could face hefty tax hike

By Frances Niblock

Halton Hills taxpayers could face a 7.5 per cent tax increase next year – although that figure is bound to change during the Town's budget process that begin in earnest in November.

The preliminary figures presented to Council last week by Director of Finance and Fri Showers - Sat/Sun Cloud & Sun Treasurer Ed DeSousa show a 2009 operating

budget of \$25.5-million – the largest capital spending plan in the Town's history.

As presented to Council, the operating budget would add \$81 to the Town tax bill, for a total of \$1,555 for a property assessed at \$300,000.

The 7.5 per cent increase includes a base budget request of 4.3 per cent, a 1.2 per cent levy for fire services, 1.2 per cent for a

budget of \$26.9-million dollars and a capital special infrastructure levy and 0.8 per cent for a library operating levy.

When the anticipated regional and education tax increases are factored in, a property owner with a \$300,000 assessment would pay \$130 more next year for a total tax bill of \$3,310, if no changes were made to the preliminary figures.

DeSousa said the preliminary budget Continued on Page 2



Fair breaks attendance record again

Plans for medical centre move forward

Plans for the Acton Medical Centre moved forward last Monday when Town Council agreed to remove a holding provision on the plans for the facility to be built on vacant property bounded by Church Street, Mill Street, Eastern Avenue and Fellows Street.

Town CAO Dennis Perlin said removal of the hold would allow the developer to "seek the necessary approvals and financing."

Acton physician Dr. Nather Alshakarji wants to build a 10,204-square-foot medical centre and urgent care clinic.

Staff recommended removing the holding provision because Dr. Alshakarii has signed a site plan approval agreement with the Town, entered into agreement with the Town to use Town-owned parking space across Eastern Avenue adjacent to the Old Hide House and received confirmation of a water allocation from Halton Region.

WHAT'S INSIDE



There is a pull out section celebrating the 95th annual Acton Fall Fair starting on Page 11.



MISS ACTON FALL FAIR: Newly crowned, Miss Acton Fall Fair Justine Martin of Acton can't contain a big smile as she presents herself for photos surrounded by, left, first runner up Rachel Moore, and, right, second runner up Larissa Schausbreitner. There is more on Miss Acton and the Fair on Page 11- Ken Baker photo

Over 16,000 enjoy fair, weather

By Frances Niblock

The 95th edition of the Acton Fall Fair was a record breaker.

Attendance on all three days set new records there were approximately 700 more people through the gates than last year with preliminary figures showing that almost 16,000 enjoyed the fair.

Officials said it is too soon to talk dollars, but the record gates are sure to translate into a profit.

"Last year's attendance was a record year and we surpassed that this year. I'm sure this fair was a money maker," said Acton Agricultural Society secretary/treasurer Jill Medland on Sunday after the gates closed.

"We had excellent weather, excellent entertainment, an increase in the number of Home craft exhibits and there were lineups for the Spot in the Park (beer tent)," Medland said when asked to explain the Fair's success.

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