

**Town's \$2.5 million capital budget shopping list**

# Roadwork, recreation get a share

Trimming away \$399,700, the town's general committee has tentatively approved a 1981 capital budget for Halton Hills.

Although the final budget will not be settled until the town has established its operating budget requirements for the year, \$2,549,980 has been earmarked for equip-

ment purchases and construction projects.

Among the items on the town's shopping list is \$120,000 worth of new fire equipment, including an aerial ladder, rescue van dispatch panel and a \$50,000 tank truck. The public works department will replace about \$179,400 worth of aging

equipment and use an additional \$6,100 to buy a trailer for grass maintenance tools as well as a road line painter. Upgrading the town's street-lighting will need \$19,000.

Under the general government allocation, \$50,000 will be used to buy a new computer, but proposals to add microfilm

equipment have been deleted from this year's budget.

Road reconstruction will consume the largest single share of the budget. Over \$1.6 million is slated for projects which include widening Guelph Street, road reconstruction in Acton's Lakeview subdivision, rebuilding Dayfoot Drive in Georgetown

and adding traffic signals at the Delrex Boulevard-Guelph Street intersection.

The recreation department will use part of its \$105,000 share of the budget to develop a family picnic area in Georgetown's Cedarvale Park, construct a new intermediate ball diamond in Acton's Prospect Park, add a soccer field on curling club property in that community and others elsewhere in town, and build a junior play area and ball diamond in the Norval Community Park. Plans to add a baseball diamond behind Alcott Arena may have to be cancelled if the department is asked to find another area.

for the recreation department's new offices.

The town's allotment to community centres and arenas this year amounts to \$48,500, and includes paving the Acton Memorial Arena parking lot, finish installing fire alarms in the old Georgetown arena and adding kitchen, bar and wash-room facilities in Gordon Alcott Arena.

Work in conjunction with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority will require \$317,500 of the capital budget. Erosion control along the Metcalfe ravine in Georgetown will need \$185,000 of the allotment while the rest of the money will be spent on other erosion control projects, repairs along tributaries, and continuing flood control along the Credit River near Glen Williams.

## BIAs urge quick approval for downtown study funding

While members of the Acton and Georgetown Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) have indicated they would like to spend \$700,000 improving the Main Street commercial districts in their communities, town council will decide how much it will spend on a much

needed commercial study of the areas March 16.

Stressing the need for council to approve study funds before the provincial housing ministry's fiscal year ends March 30, the BIAs have pointed out that each community could receive \$150,000 for

Main Street business improvements once the study is carried out.

Speaking to councillors Monday night, BIA representative George Markou said the Acton and Georgetown downtown commercial areas are united in their request to have the

study funds approved quickly.

In a joint letter to council, the BIAs said getting the \$150,000 grants could mean the "turning point" in the future the town's Main Streets allowing BIA boards to improve the physical appearance and commercial viability of their areas.

The study will determine what aspects of each commercial district should be enhanced and will help set official plan policies for Halton Hills' Main Street commercial areas. Although as much as \$25,000 may be available through provincial grants, at least \$30,000 of the study will have to come directly from the municipal treasury.

Planning department staff have trimmed a list of 11 consultants offering to conduct the study down to four candidates. A steering committee composed of regional and local staff, representatives from both BIAs, Mayor Pete Pomeroy and regional planning committee chairman Roy Booth will recommend a final consultant for council's approval in two weeks.

Over a ten-year period, Mr. Markou said, businessmen in the BIAs will spend \$700,000 repaying the Main Street improvement loans and spending each community's BIA budgets on projects. All money raised must be spent on municipal property within the BIAs, property which would include street lighting, public benches, landscaping and municipal parking.

## Roy Booth mobile - tops expense list

Halton Hills Coun. Roy Booth and regional chairman Jack Rafis racked up the most business expenses among regional reps last year, according to a report presented to the region's finance and administration committee last week.

Regional councillors and representatives of Halton's Land Division Committee, police commission, and agricultural advisory and environmental assessment committees were paid \$318,686 in salaries, honorariums, car

allowances and other expenses in 1980.

While Mr. Rafis was paid \$3,559 in expenses above his \$30,285.83 annual salary, Coun. Booth's involvement with the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Children's Aid Society and the Halton District Health Council incurred \$2,066 in expenses. Coun. Booth earned \$10,857.75 as a regional councillor.

Annoyed that fellow representatives from the Burlington and Oakville areas are charging mileage for the short distance to the region's head-

quarters at the corner of Bronte Road and the Queen Elizabeth Way, Oakville Coun. Gordon Reade suggested councillors collect no expense for the first five miles of travel. But he recognized the trip to Oakville numerous times a week from Milton and Halton Hills can mean a hefty gas bill.

Paid 24 cents per mile, councillors are also covered for conference costs. Councillors, last Wednesday, called for a clearer breakdown of the expenses, separating mileages from other costs.

## Threatened fair's future, town writes off damages

The Georgetown Agricultural Society won't have to pay \$1,336 for turf ruined during last year's Fall Fair at Fairgrounds Park, town councillors decided Monday night.

Warning that the 135-year old Fair would probably fold if held responsible for minor damages sometimes caused by different events, society spokesman Ian MacCallum argued that the fair brings in revenue for local merchants and has contributed money to the parks upkeep in previous years.

Although the original bill of over \$1,800 was reduced, members of the Fall Fair Board charged at their Jan. 15 annual meeting, that the invoice for damages was "unreasonable". "It was our feeling that the

invoice is without precedent," Mr. MacCallum told council, pointing out that never in the fair's history has it been billed for damages. Held in the early autumn, the event is particularly susceptible to rainy weather, he said, softening the area where the fair hosts its horse shows.

According to a landscape consultant, Mr. MacCallum said, the grass should recover without reseeded the area. Had the Fair Board been asked, he added, its own work crews would have corrected the damage for considerably less money than the \$244 for labor, \$333 for equipment and \$190 for material charged by the town.

But town engineer Bob Austin said the grass would not

likely have grown back if left alone and told councillors that the Acton Fall Fair Board had paid for sod repairs following their event at Prospect Park four years ago. While the town gave the Georgetown fair a \$700 charge last year, the Board was charged for the use of water truck and a garbage compactor.

Waiving part of an Aug. 25 town council resolution making the Fair Board responsible for sod damage, Coun. Mike Armstrong argued against charging the Board and suggested that its officials have at least 2 days to make repairs at the park following the fair in the future.

"(The fair) is a very, very worthwhile project," he said, "I don't think costs like this should be incurred by the Fair Board."

## Pastor offers support, advice to parents group

The first meeting with the new 1981 executive of Parents Without Partners was held Feb. 17 at the Mountainview Road Baptist Church, with the group being introduced by Pastor John Vincent.

Pastor Vincent spoke briefly on his support and approval for this group, which is having to cope with a serious fact of life. The church has donated its facilities with Pastor Vincent also being an advisory ear whenever it is needed.

The program for this meeting consisted of Elli Dryden, guest speaker and gardening columnist for The Herald, who briefly gave an outline of her work with plants and had a question and answer period. A draw with four prizes donated by Lady Greenthum

were shared among the 35 members who were present.

After a break for coffee, the meeting proceeded with an open discussion on their future goals, business at hand, announcements and any items the members wished to discuss.

The meeting was brought to a close by an informal plant exchange.

Anyone requesting further information, please call Angie Laing, at 877-4971 with the next meeting being held March 16, 8 p.m. at the same location.

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