

# Councillors ponder spending \$9 million on capital projects

By BEN DUMMETT  
the Herald

Halton Hills councillors poured over a 1990 capital budget Tuesday night that proposes to spend 50 per cent more than last year.

The town is considering spending in excess of \$9 million on capital projects this year. The town spent just over \$4.4 million on capital projects last year.

The increase is largely due to a proposal to build a new \$3 million Acton arena, says town senior accountant Cor Buikema.

The town expects to pay just over \$2.3 million of the total cost. The remainder is predicted to come from a capital conservation grant. The town will have to borrow to pay its share of the arena, the budget report says. The town expects to pay just over \$407,000 annually in interest over a 10-year period. This means individual property owner taxes would increase by 5.8 per cent, the report says.

Just over \$1.2 million of the capital budget is financed by property taxes.

The purchase of land to build a new fire station in Acton and a new fire pumper for the Georgetown fire department are two other significant proposed purchases in the budget.

The combined cost of those two capital expenditures is \$495,000. The majority of the cost would be covered by the town's unallocated capital fund.

The unallocated capital fund is money left over from the previous year. The first \$100,000 in this fund goes to help reduce the tax rate for the next year, the report says. The remainder helps pay for capital projects.

These fire department expenditures are listed as two and three in the department's priority list. The number one priority is a \$21,000 emergency traffic control

system. The system decreases the amount of time it takes firefighters to arrive at a fire call.

Money raised from property tax would be used to purchase the new system.

The town wants to spend close to \$480,000 on the reconstruction of the Fourth Line and Sideroad 17. Construction depends on if the town receives provincial funding in the same amount. The project is estimated to cost the town \$959,000 this year. The town will fund its share using money from its unallocated reserve funds and gravel royalties.

The town's capital forecast budget for 1991 and 1994 estimates the town will accumulate a debt of about \$4.8 million over this period to help pay for various capital projects, the report says.

# Supreme court hears appeal of Halton's landfill site

Expert evidence has proven a new landfill site for Halton's garbage should be built in Burlington - not Milton - the Ontario Supreme Court heard Monday.

Eleanore Cronk, the attorney for the Burlington landowners, said the proposed Burlington site is better suited for the garbage than a recommended Milton area. She said the land can hold contaminants as well as Milton and the Burlington site is more distanced from homeowners.

Ms. Cronk argued against a 1988 Consolidated Hearings Act board decision that endorsed the Milton area. She said the board ignored "expert evidence" when it concluded the Burlington site was unsafe.

"All of the evidence that the joint board heard... was that the (Burlington) site was safe. That it was acceptable. That it could work," Ms. Cronk said.

The arguments for competing landfills appeared in the Supreme Court nearly eight years after NSP Investments Ltd., the owners of

the 96-ha. site in Burlington, first applied to develop a landfill.

NSP Investments, along with the Region of Halton, the Town of Milton, an area citizens' coalition and some landowners have all endorsed the Burlington application.

However, a joint board formed under the Consolidated Hearings Act didn't support that proposal. After an 18-month hearing, that board determined in 1988 the landfill should be built in Milton at a location near Highway 25 and Britannia Road.

The matter has now gone to a Supreme Court judicial review that began Monday. Lawyers for NSP and other groups supporting the Burlington site say the Consolidated Hearings Board decision should be quashed.

Currently, Halton is without a landfill site. It has been exporting its trash to areas such as Niagara Falls at a cost of about \$1 million per month.

In the argument for the Burlington site, Ms. Cronk dismissed a judgement by the Consolidated

Hearings Board that said the area wasn't safe.

She said there was no evidence presented to support that conclusion. Ms. Cronk said all experts who testified at the Consolidated Hearings Act hearing said both sites would be safe.


The Burlington site, she added, is located 1 km away from any residences and is situated next to an existing landfill site and a former landfill. Ms. Cronk said evidence showed the area has little risk of contamination.

"The joint board cannot ignore and reject, out of hand, that evidence when it was not contradicted."

The lawyer added the landowners, NSP Investments, welcome the landfill. By contrast, she said some landowners in the recommended Milton area object to a landfill and their land may have to be expropriated.

The Supreme Court judicial review into the matter is slated to continue until Thursday.

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