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Proposed arena costs 'scare' some politicians

The proposed \$29.2-million plan to build three new ice pads/arenas, including twinning the Acton arena, has been sent back to Town staff by the budget committee, some of whom found the financial implications "frightening" and a "little scary."

At Tuesday's budget meeting, Ed DeSousa, the Town's Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer, said with a total potential debt of

\$36.5-million for arena-related items, two new libraries and two new fire stations, the Town's debt-to-reserve ratio is a "bit concerning."

Regional/Georgetown Councillor Jane Fogal said the debt "scares" her, and asked councillors to send the spending plan back to staff to prepare other options. Georgetown Councillor Moya Johnson agreed with the deferral, noting the implications of the "all arenas, all the

time" plan are "frightening."

On Wednesday, budget committee members continued line-by-line review of this year's proposed \$15.5-million capital budget. The lion's share – \$2.3-million – is earmarked for Recreation and Parks projects, including money for design and engineering of a new twin pad arena, and for tennis court and soccer field replacements.



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WHAT'S INSIDE



Acton merchants held their own with holiday shopping.
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Expansion approved at Rockwood Presbyterian Church.
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Holiday hockey tournament scores.
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HELLO 2011: Acton's Riley Muisse, 8, (right) along with her dad Ken, mom Alison Montgomery and friends Sydney (left) and Avery Azimi welcomed the New Year – the junior version at 9:30 p.m. – by pulling the rope to ring the bell at the Town Hall Centre. – *George Henderson photo*



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