

Public meeting Monday on hospital request

At the January 10th Council meeting, Halton Healthcare Services formally requested financial support from the Town in the amount of \$4.5-million toward a much needed expansion and renovation to accommodate a CT scanner at the Georgetown Hospital, and increase the area of the emergency department.

Town Council will host a public meeting on January 24, 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Town of Halton Hills to solicit feedback from the community before making their decision.

Georgetown Hospital has been a cornerstone of the Town since first opening its doors in 1961. Since then there has been significant growth in the town and the hospital now faces daily challenges meeting the healthcare

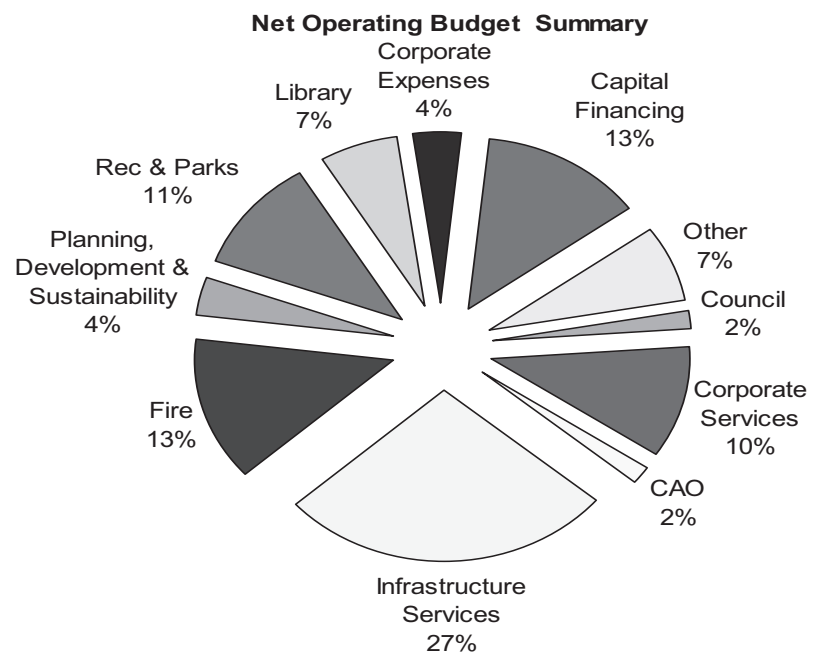
needs of our community particularly emergency and diagnostic imaging services.

In 2009, Halton Healthcare Services received approval from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to acquire and operate a CT scanner at the Georgetown Hospital. The existing building requires renovations to accommodate this vital new service.

Halton Healthcare has proposed that this project be funded through funds generated by Halton Healthcare Services as well as the community. The current projected cost of this project is \$12.1-million. The Georgetown Hospital Foundation has committed \$5-million, Halton Healthcare Services \$2.4-million, and the Georgetown Volunteer Association \$250,000. Based

on the current estimated costs, Halton Healthcare Services has asked Town Council to consider the contribution of \$4.5-million.

Mayor Bonnette said "everyone recognizes the importance of the Georgetown Hospital to our community. Making grants to hospitals while possible, is not a usual mandate of a Town. Other communities have given financial grants to their hospitals. Therefore in considering such a grant request, Town Council wants to hear from the community because if Council gives such a grant it will need to raise property taxes to do so," Bonnette said, adding they hope the community will respond with comments on the Town website, or in person at the Council Meeting on January 24th.



Budget approvals expected on Monday

Rehabilitation of the Prospect Park pavillion, replacement of flooring and partitions at Acton arena and repaving of a number of Acton area roads – including sections of the Fifth and Sixth Lines, Dublin Line and Elizabeth Drive – are some of the items approved in line-by-line review of the proposed 2011 capital budget by the budget committee last week.

As it now stands, the 2011 capital budget is \$13.2-million and the 10-year capital forecast is \$99.8-million – both subject to deferral of all arena-related spending. The budget committee, all councillors and the mayor, voted to defer \$29.2-million in arena-related items

until staff comes back with options to balance corporate needs. Subject to final endorsement by Council, items approved in Acton by budget committee members include:

- \$279,000 to install two stormwater quality units to improve the quality of water that is discharged into the Fairy Lake

- \$10,000 to repair and replace exterior walls and soffit at the Prospect Park pavillion

- \$24,000 to replace damaged partitions in arena washrooms, and \$14,000 to replace the vinyl floor in the community hall and seniors centre

- \$993,000 to reconstruct substandard Wallace Street from Commerce Crescent to McDonald Boulevard

- \$75,000 to construct a bike lane on Wallace Street

- \$17,000 to repaint the rusting 30-year-old metal siding inside the Acton Indoor Pool.

The budget committee also debated projects in the proposed capital budget

until 2014, which is its term of office. The 2012 proposed \$26-million capital budget includes:

- \$448,000 to replace the Maria Street bridge

- \$539,000 for two projects in Prospect Park including Fairy Lake shoreline remediation, a pier, boardwalk, ticket booth and playground and track rehabilitation.

In 2013, the \$15.1-million capital forecast includes:

- \$134,000 to replace the hydro service at the Acton tennis courts

- \$15,000 to renovate the Acton arena lobby

- \$108,000 to implement Fairy Lake water quality improvement plans.

In 2014, the proposed \$22-million capital budget forecast includes:

- \$135,000 for a retaining wall on Cameron Street

- \$25,000 for skaters flooring replacement at Acton arena.

There are \$91-million worth of unfunded projects in the capital budget forecast until 2018.

Court date for Acton man

The 47-year-old Acton man charged with second degree murder in connection with the death of his neighbour made another court appearance by video hookup from his jail cell to a Mil-

ton courtroom today (Thursday).

Eddie McGuin was charged after Halton police were called to a Mill Street West apartment building on January 6, and found Rick MacLeod

suffering life-threatening injuries. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police have not released results of the post mortem, and the investigation continues.

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All replies will be held in the strictest of confidence.

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