

Town Digest

Final tax rate

Council's decision to borrow \$2.6-million to grant to Halton Healthcare Services to help pay for a CT Scanner and expanded emergency department at Georgetown hospital means the Town's tax levy increase is 7.3 per cent over last year. Paying off the loan will add 1 per cent to the Town tax bill in each of the next 10 years. That's \$13.63 more each year for \$1,262 in Town taxes on property with an assessed value of \$350,000.

When Halton's 1.4 per cent increase, and the zero increase for education purposes are factored in, the tax increase for a property assessed at \$350,000 is 3.4 per cent more, a \$115 increase for a total tax bill of \$3,423.

Noting that residential taxpayers pay more than their fair share because of the lack of industrial/commercial development, Georgetown Councillor Ann Lawlor suggested they do something to enhance their development strategy. This prompted Mayor Rick Bonnette to defend the

Town's economic development initiatives, including the proposed outlets malls in the 401 corridor.

An assessment update showed that 89.6 per cent of Halton Hills assessment came from residential development last year and 10 per cent from non-residential. The provincial average for residential vs. non-residential ratio is 85.8 per cent to 14.2 per cent.

Heritage bridge rehab plan

A deteriorating heritage stone arch bridge located on 27 Side Road, between the Eighth Line and Fallbrook Trail, will be rehabilitated – not closed or relocated – with Town councillors approval of an Environmental Assessment study that recommend reconstructing the bridge to handle traffic while preserving its heritage features. The cost is estimated at \$450,000, money already approved in this year's budget.

The single-lane bridge, built in approximately 1877, has been identified as an important heritage feature in the Fallbrook Farm property in the Silver Creek

Conservation Area. In the area of the bridge, 27 Side Road is narrow and winding and used by approximately 250 vehicles daily. The majority of public comments wanted the bridge repaired where it is, for vehicles and pedestrians.

Following Council's endorsement of the committee decision to rehabilitate the bridge, expected June 6, the Environmental Assessment will be filed with the Ministry of Environment for the mandatory 30-day comment period.

Good stewards

Going Green earned the Halton Hills Fire Department a Conservation Halton Award of Excellence as an environmental champion with the construction of the two new fire stations and HQ in Georgetown.

"Both (buildings) are LEED Gold certified and show the Town's commitment to energy and water conservation and show excellent stewardship," said Hassaan Basit with Conservation Halton, which will host an awards ceremony tonight (Thursday) in Lowville.



SOCIAL CREW FUNDRAISER: Purity Life hosted a lot sale on Saturday to raise money for its MAD4U social crew. Rob and Colleen Baker offered great deals. – Ted Tyler photo

Camping season tips

Camping season is here and Halton Hills Fire Chief Brent Marshall urges all camper and trailer owners to ensure they have at least one working smoke alarm in their units. Marshall said: "Whether it is a boat with sleeping quarters, tow trailer or a full size RV, it is good practice to install smoke alarms in any recreational vehicle."

The Ontario Fire Code requires every "dwelling unit" to have working smoke alarms on every level and

outside all sleeping areas. Dwelling units also includes seasonal homes such as park model trailers, cabins and cottages and may include motor homes and travel trailers. Most new trailers, campers and RVs' may already meet certain criteria and construction standards that require smoke alarms but, older models may not be equipped with any or they may not have been properly maintained and will require your attention.

"Halton Hills has three trailer/recreational parks. Let's continue making a sincere and conscious effort to prevent any needless and senseless tragedies in our community by having working smoke alarms in your seasonal homes. Working smoke alarms have proven time and time again, that they save lives," said Mayor Bonnette, who urged everyone to take a few extra minutes to change the batteries and test their smoke alarms at the start of each and every camping/cottage season.

Smoke alarms are your first line of defense against fire, your early warning device that alerts you to fire and smoke conditions. Working smoke alarms will provide you the few extra precious seconds you need to escape a fire. If your smoke alarms are between seven and 10 years old, replace them.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

JUNE 4

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DESPICABLE ME

film starts at dusk

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Annual Chicken Barbecue
Saturday, June 4 • 4:30pm to 7pm
 Half chicken, baked potato, cole slaw, bun, beverage and pie. All for \$15. Advance tickets recommended. Call 905-876-3322 or 905-854-1055

175th Anniversary Service
Sunday, June 5 • 10am
 Guest speaker is Harold Percy, former pastor at Trinity Anglican Church in Mississauga, creator of the video course "Christianity 101", author of several books, teacher at Wycliffe College. Also participating, Desmond Howard, pastor at NPC from 1980 - 1990. Light lunch following the service.

175th Anniversary Play
Sunday, June 12 • 11:30pm
 The children and youth of NPC will present a 175th Anniversary Play highlighting the history of the congregation from its beginnings in 1836 until the present.

nassagaweya.com • 905-854-1055
 Pastor Sean Howard

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