

# 'It's a lot of money to pay to get basically nothing'

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Although located in the urban area where the Region intends to eventually provide water and wastewater services, the Region approved the storage buildings with the notation that "there is currently no capacity in the Acton water system to accommodate additional growth."

Still, Metro Pavement Markings was required to pay \$48,128 for water and waste water services, while R&M Construction had to pay about \$23,000.

"We believe this is a matter of taxation fairness," said Ross Dryden, who addressed the committee on behalf of Metro. "The Region should not charge for a service they cannot provide."

Regional staff recommended against returning the money to the companies, noting that development charges are collected to pay for the costs of upgrading water infrastructure. Planned improvements in Acton are expected to cost the Region about \$37 million.

Councillor Jane Fogal attempted to negotiate a compromise that would have seen the fees returned to the companies, with an agreement that if and when water and

wastewater services were made available, the companies would pay the applicable fees.

Fogal suggested the issue was important to Acton's economic development, as the community has difficulty attracting new business given its inability to offer expanded water and wastewater services.

"We're very protective of any businesses we've got," she noted. "I think in Acton, we have a special situation. We don't know even if we ever will have water and wastewater servicing."

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette also forwarded a letter to the Region on behalf of the companies, arguing that the development charge fees were not fair.

After a lengthy in-camera discussion with legal staff, the committee voted against returning the fees to the two companies.

Harry Reinders, owner of R&M Construction, said he was disappointed with the decision.

"It's a lot of money to pay just to get basically nothing," he said.

The two companies do have the opportunity to make their request again, when the committee recommendation is considered at a meeting of the full regional council tomorrow (Wednesday).



ROSS DRYDEN



Members of the Halton Hills Fire Department show off some of the artifacts collected for the new heritage building and public education centre. From left are, firefighters Alan Scott, Kevin Usher, Pat Woods, Ron Appleyard and Chief Brent Marshall. The facility is located at the new headquarters at the corner of 10 Sideroad and Eighth Line.

Submitted photo

## Fire department seeks memorabilia

The Halton Hills Fire Department is hoping the public can help them stock their new heritage building and public education centre. The facility will be used to display the history of firefighting in Halton Hills and educate local children on fire prevention.

The centre is located inside the new fire hall at 10 Sideroad and Eighth Line in Georgetown and is also home to Georgetown's recently restored 1942 Ford/ LaFrance Foamite pumper. The Heritage Committee is asking residents who

have photographs or artifacts they would like to donate to contact any member of the committee. The committee is also looking for cabinets and used mannequins to properly display historic dress uniforms and artifacts.

If you have items you would like to donate to the heritage building or any questions regarding the facility please contact committee members Alan Scott (ascott41@cogeco.ca), Pat Woods (patw@haltonhills.ca) or Kevin Usher (kevinu@haltonhills.ca).



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