

CtK students knit for a cause



A group of students at Christ the King Catholic Secondary School were busy needling away for the past few months on a large blanket that they've donated to Extendicare Halton Hills. Funding for the CtK Knits for Halton initiative came from the provincial government's Speak Up program (represented by Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott, right) along with Georgetown Yarn & Crafts. Students in the photo (from left) are: Marianne Ples, Chloe Molly, Courtney Praturlon, Amanda Van Ravens and Emily Wilson.

Photo by
Eamonn Maher

Town had \$521,000 surplus in '09

By **CYNTHIA GAMBLE**
Staff Writer

After a practically non-existent budget surplus in 2008, the Town of Halton Hills posted a half-million dollar surplus in 2009.

The \$521,353 brings the Town's surplus back to 2006 levels. In 2008, the Town posted an \$8,351 surplus and \$3,241 in 2007—the lowest since 1974. Harsh snowy winters in both '07 and '08 led to budget overspending—one of the primary factors in the low surpluses.

The years 2009 and 2006 were both mild winter years. Last year, the winter control budget was under-spent by \$188,000.

However, to avoid any future year-end surprises such as those experienced in the previous two years, Town council

created a new Severe Weather Event Reserve, and began budgeting the winter control budget based on a five-year average dollar spent last year.

Of the \$521,000, the Town allocated \$171,000 to the 2010 budget, \$70,000 to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve, \$52,000 to the Repairs and Maintenance Reserve and \$227,000 to the Capital Reserve.

As well, the Technology Replacement Reserve got a huge boost due to a better return—4%—on investments (\$1.59 million compared to an expected \$930,000). Interest income of \$651,000 was transferred to the fund.

The Town spent more than expected, \$43,000, on legal fees, and collected more than expected on tax penalties, \$183,000. However, supplementary taxes—those collected from new residents were less than expected, \$79,000.

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• Fellowship Lunch 12:00 P.M. • Ministry Meeting 1:00 P.M.
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Address: 318 Guelph Street
Phone: 905-873-1005 Website: www.haltonhillsbiblechapel.com