

Roadwork high on Region's to-do list

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despite hefty spending on infrastructure, residents will have a 0.1 per cent tax reduction for Regional services, which include waste management, public health and transportation.

"A tax freeze was difficult, especially given the direction to maintain programs and increase them when possible," said Regional treasurer Jane MacCaskill. The 0.1 per cent reduction translates to about \$1 in savings for a home assessed at \$350,000.

Staff predict owners of a \$350,000 home—the median price of a house in Halton—will pay about \$895 for Regional services in 2011.

However, the cost for other services could be going up, according to the report.

The Halton Regional Police Services Board's 2011 budget shows residents will

pay about \$481 for police services, an approximate \$20 increase from last year.

The 0.1 per cent reduction in Regional services, combined with the increase for police services, translates to a 1.4 per cent increase in the 2011 Regional property tax bill.

The cost for water and wastewater will also go up next year. Currently held at 2009 rates, the 2011 rates, paid to local hydro providers, will increase by 4.1 per cent.

Along with road-widening projects, the Region's business plan shows an emphasis on social services—which makes up the largest portion of Halton's operating costs.

Spending planned for next year includes a \$1.5 million increase to the existing \$33 million 10-year social housing program, which aims to deliver 60 to 100 new social housing per year.

Police blotter: Theft charge laid

A Georgetown man is facing charges after police spotted a man acting suspiciously around vehicles in the Maple Ave./Edith St. area about 11:20 p.m. Tuesday.

Halton Police say a plainclothes officer noticed the man and called in uniform officers. There was a foot pursuit and police apprehended the man. He was searched and several items were recovered that had been stolen from vehicles in the area.

Charged with theft under \$5,000 and possession of stolen property is Benjamin Patrick Neal, 19.

Police are looking for two men in connection with thefts from vehicles after a Russell St. resident, having a cigarette outside at 2:50 a.m. Saturday, noticed a van traveling on the street. He saw two males get out and enter a vehicle parked in a neighbour's driveway, then leave. Taken from the vehicle were binoculars and a compass.

The van is believed to be a silver Chevrolet Venture. One of the suspects is described as 5'10" wearing a silver hoodie, and the other male is 6' and was wearing red clothing.

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All we can say is thank you so much to those who have helped us get here today. We hope you have a very Happy New Year!

Sincerely

Jill Hassell

Happy New Year!

