

Cop budget includes hiring 13 officers

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"I'm sure we want to, as any other police service, remain competitive to those around us. I don't want to see, and I don't expect, our officers to be paid much different than the other police services in the province," said Crowell.

A starting constable with Halton Police makes \$46,725 and a First Class Constable earns \$80,770. The most recent collective bargaining agreement spread out a 9.2 per cent wage increase over three years, which included a 3.1 per cent increase on January 1. Halton Police are in line for another raise in January 2012.

The 2011 budget includes the hiring of 13 officers, six civilian positions and the conversion of seven part-time civilian positions to full-time ones. The new hires account for \$1.8 million of the budget. Another big-ticket item is an increase \$2.4 million for contract and benefits.

During Crowell's presentation, he pointed out the ratio of police to population in Halton is the lowest in the GTA, as is the cost of police

per capita (\$206.21 in 2009). The region has also been named Canada's safest the last three years running. And while the rate of criminal offences, violent crimes and property crimes are up— 5.5 per cent, 5.4 per cent and 6.3 per cent, respectively— the crime rate in Halton is significantly lower than that of surrounding regions.

"We have 9.5 per cent poverty, we have eight per cent unemployment and 73 per cent of non-government workers do not have pensions," said Burlington Councillor Paul Sharman, questioning the rise in salaries. "There's no clear expectation that the economy will get a robust recovery. Is this (on par) with respect to the other members of society, and my question for you is there social justice in this?" he asked Crowell.

Taylor asked the department to return to council in the spring with a plan to keep future budgets in and around the rate of inflation. "The people can't pay this rate of increase anymore," he said.

—With files from Torstar News Service



PUBLIC MEETING JANUARY 24, 2011 AT 6:30 PM

REQUEST TO TOWN COUNCIL FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF \$4.546 M FOR THE PROPOSED GEORGETOWN HOSPITAL EXPANSION

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Council is inviting those who wish to comment on the hospital request for financial support from the Town in the amount of \$4.546 million, for the proposed Georgetown Hospital expansion to accommodate a CT Scanner and improve the Emergency Area, to attend its Public Meeting to be held on **Monday, January 24, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.**, Council Chambers, Town of Halton Hills, 1 Halton Hills Drive.

Those intending to come do NOT need to register to speak. However, in order for Council to accommodate all citizens wishing to attend, confirmation in advance of your attendance with the Town Clerk's Office: Renée Brown, 905-873-2601, ext. 2333 or by e-mail at renee@haltonhills.ca would be appreciated.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND - YOU CAN STILL COMMENT

Council welcomes citizens who are unable to attend the Public Meeting to submit your comments in writing to the attention of the Town Clerk, Town of Halton Hills 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2

- OR -

All citizens also have the opportunity to submit comments electronically by the visiting the Town's website <http://www.haltonhills.ca/publicmeetings/georgetownhospital.php>

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE??

To view the presentation made by Halton Healthcare regarding the Capital Plan for the Georgetown Hospital, and the proposed Municipal Share request of \$4.546 million, please visit the Town's website at: www.haltonhills.ca

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