

Town okays 2012 capital budget but many big ticket items missing

By **CYNTHIA GAMBLE**
Staff Writer

Gellert Phase 2 into the 2015 capital forecast and the Acton Senior Centre Expansion Design and Engineering and construction into the 2014 and 2015 capital forecast, both were absent. That resolution had been approved during the contentious three-arena project special meeting to appease residents demanding balance in the capital forecast for non-arena users.

DeSousa said the projects were placed on the unfunded list based on the projected development charges (DCs) funding that the Town would be receiving over the next couple of years. DCs are the developer-paid money provided to the Town to help pay for road and infrastructure improvements.

He said the Town's DC reserve fund balances have dropped over the last several years and, according to legislation, they cannot have a negative balance.

"Based on the existing forecast of what we will take in of DCs in the next few years, there isn't enough DC funding to do those projects," said DeSousa.

He added staff will monitor the DCs and the forecast could change annually as a result.

"It's an unfortunate situation (the Gellert Phase 2 wasn't included)," said Fogal. "Last year there was an indication that it would be put into the forecast and now it's completely disappeared. There will be some disappointed people and I am one of them."

Other projects not included in the capital forecast include the Acton Youth Space design and construction (originally slated for 2013/14 \$2.45 million), the option to buy land beside the Gellert (2015, \$5.3 million), Glen Lawson Rd. construction (originally slated for 2012, \$2.34 million), fourth fire station to be located in the 401 Corridor (2021) and various road reconstruction on Eighth Line, Armstrong Ave., and 22 Sideroad.

In fact, between 2012 and 2021, there are 193 projects— new parks, road upgrades, facility repairs, equipment and material purchases, totalling \$116 million that can't be included due to the lack of money.

See **TOWN**, pg. 5

While the \$12.5 million 2012 capital budget and \$101 million 2013-2021 capital forecast is fully funded, it does not contain a lot of big-ticket items such as Phase 2 of the Gellert Centre.

Halton Hills budget committee (all members of council) approved the \$12.496 million budget and \$101.123 million capital forecast after a two-hour meeting Wednesday night at the Civic Centre.

"What you see here is a fully-funded capital budget and capital forecast," said Town Treasurer Ed DeSousa.

"We can't comment on a lot of these things— they're just safety things. We don't have enough money to do wild, exciting things," said Councillor Jane Fogal, when explaining why the debate was limited and short. "We're repairing so many bridges, there really isn't money left to do a lot of other things."

What's in the budget is primary health and safety items, she said, and "it's obvious we've got to do this. I think staff has taken the approach we would look after protecting the Corporation and protecting our assets first."

"Municipalities only collect eight per cent of the tax revenue but supply 92 per cent of the infrastructure— and that's a huge deficit," said Mayor Rick Bonnette. "When people ask why aren't we doing some of these things, is because we're not getting a fair balance of the tax revenue."

Budget committee added only three items to the budget and forecast. All were related to the Town's 2010-2014 Strategic Action Plan: \$50,000 to develop and implement an Economic Development Strategy, and \$75,000 annually in the forecast to implement the Community Improvement Plan regarding intensification in the downtown areas and Guelph St. corridor and \$25,000 to market that plan to businesses and developers.

Despite a February council resolution calling for the placement of the design and engineering of the



ED DESOUSA

Tooth Chatter



The staff at Alex Trenton's office have written a Christmas Carol and dedicated it to him! Sang to the tune of "WINTER WONDERLAND" "DENTURE WONDERLAND"

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Your new teeth, you've been wanting
A beautiful taste
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Gone away, are the old teeth
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Alex makes them fit great
You're old ones you'll hate
Chewing in your denture wonderland!

In the days ahead, you'll need adjustments
Just to double check they're fitting right
Your mouth might get a tender little sore spot,
But Alex will fix you up and make you bite!

Later on, we'll recall you
To make sure, you can still chew
If everything's fine,
You'll skip your relines
And keep smiling in your in your denture wonderland!

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Alexander Trenton, DD, F.C.A.D. (A)
Denturist
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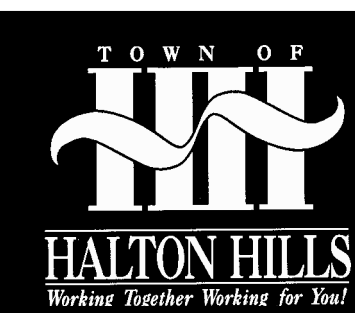


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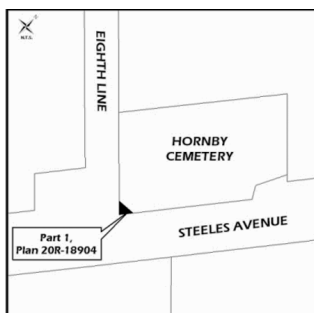
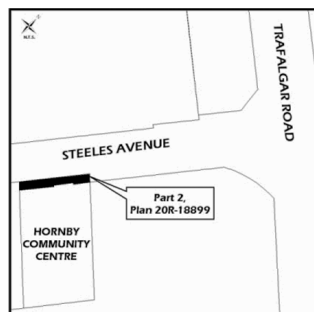
SALE OF LAND

NOTICE is hereby given that Council for the Town of Halton Hills will be considering the passage of a by-law to authorize the sale of the following lands to the Regional Municipality of Halton, at its meeting to be held on Monday, November 28 2011 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Georgetown:

- Part Lot 15, Concession 7 shown as Part 2 on 20R-18899; and
- Part Lot 1, Concession 9 shown as Part 1 or 20R-18904

Inquiries regarding the proposed sale should be directed to Mr. John Kwast, Manager of Design and Construction at (905) 873-2601 x 2310.

Council shall hear any person who claims to be prejudicially affected by the By-law and who applies to be heard. Persons wishing to be heard should notify the Clerk's Division at (905) 873-2601 x 2333 prior to the meeting date. 15C



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... Lend Me Your Ears

By **Cory Soal**
R.H.A.D.

LIVING WITH A LOSS OF HEARING

Some voices are easier to understand than others. The clearly speaking person produces words that are more precisely formed, or articulated. The rate of speed of words spoken also affects our ability to understand.

If one can hear the speaker as he/she is talking, this makes it easier to understand. The environment also has an effect on speech understanding — bare walls and floors in a room causes sound to "bounce" around. Keep in mind that it is much easier to converse in a quiet, carpeted room.

Make sure that there is good lighting and try to maintain a speaking distance of less than nine feet. You'll be pleasantly surprised at how much easier conversation is.

Hearing loss can dampen enjoyment of movies, music, church services, watching TV, eating out and talking on the telephone. Even a mild hearing loss can reduce your quality of life.

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