



# Credit Valley Conservation's Landscapes for Learning

AT TERRA COTTA CONSERVATION AREA'S WATERSHED LEARNING CENTRE

## Bird Feeder Workshop



**Saturday, November 26**  
**Drop in from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**For everyone**

Use your carpentry skills to build a wooden bird feeder to bring birds to your backyard. All building materials and tools will be supplied (one feeder per family).

Suggested donation of \$5 per person along with gate admission.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** at [education@creditvalleyca.ca](mailto:education@creditvalleyca.ca) or call 905-670-1615 ext 221.

Terra Cotta Conservation Area, 14452 Winston Churchill Blvd., Halton Hills

[www.creditvalleyca.ca/education](http://www.creditvalleyca.ca/education)

# Membership falls with fee hikes, say clubs

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Zuraw said, "What we don't want to see continue is this trend of user fee rate increasing and membership rate decreasing."

His views were echoed by Halton Hills Synchro, represented by club president Dianne Theoret-Major. She, too, said the 37-member club lost members because it couldn't afford all the required pool hours.

"I am frustrated at another rise in the cost," she said. "With these fees we will be in a deficit."

Council is scheduled to approve the latest proposed rates and fee increases to take effect in January 2012, at its meeting Monday night (Nov. 28). The revenue collected would lessen the burden on the residents' tax bills.

After a review by a consultant to establish the full cost of providing services, departments set new fees based the consultants' recommendation, and what the Town staff thinks the public could pay.

For example, a \$25 dog licence will cost \$33 in 2012, after the consultant determined that would be the full cost recovery of the fee, and staff felt that increase would not be an undue financial burden on the general public. A two-year licence would go up by \$13 while a three-year licence will increase by \$19.

Marriage licences rise by \$15 to \$150, while the cost to bury people will remain relatively the same.

Business licence fees will go up three per cent until a review of the current Business

Licensing Bylaw is approved later this year.

The new rates and fees also affect building and engineering permits and planning fees.

The fire department will increase the cost of some of its permits, and will introduce a number of new fees and permits including a family fireworks permit costing \$22 and a large fireworks display \$213.

Fire Chief Brent Marshall said the fire department would not actively pursue violators of the family fireworks permit unless a complaint is lodged— similar to its procedure with burn permits.

The greatest impact will be recreation and parks users, despite the fact the Town will forego full-cost recovery and continue to set fees based on affordability and market comparability. Generally, Recreation and Parks fees are either staying the same or are hiked between a dollar and \$10.

But Zuraw said with the latest increase the club is projecting a deficit two years in a row unless they pass on the rate increase on to their membership.

Director of Parks & Recreation Terry Alyman said rates go up because of the cost of operations.

If the Town doesn't charge users, then the general tax base will have to cover the cost of it, he said.

However, he added, Recreation & Parks has also noticed a correlation between rate increases and dropping enrolment in their own programs.

Alyman said no other user group has contacted his department regarding rate hikes.

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