

# EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

## Tough job

With calculators charged, pencils sharpened the Town's budget committee – all councillors and the mayor – sat down on Wednesday (and possibly again on Thursday, if required) to debate the proposed capital budget for 2013 and the forecast to 2022.

The lion's share, \$8.3-million of the proposed \$12.4-million (gross cost) spending plan for next year, is earmarked for infrastructure services – pavement management, drainage, road work and equipment – followed by Recreation and Parks (\$3-million) and then the library (\$324,000).

The proposed \$99.9-million long-range forecast to 2022 will be approved in principle – with possible additions and deletions – and then reviewed annually. Before the proposed spending plan reached the committee, senior management reviewed and ranked the projects – those that don't make it will be prioritized for consideration in future years.

Faced with depleted reserves, dwindling Development Charges, a growing list of necessary and worthy projects, and an operating budget with a proposed maximum 5.9 per cent increase, the budget committee faces a tough job as it attempts to balance needs and wants.



**FINDING SERVICES:** Some 43 vendors took part in the second annual LINKing North Halton event last Thursday at Acton High School. Approximately 180 people attended the event that showcased community resources. Volunteers, from left; Marcella Larose, Megan Gardiner, Alison Hilborn, Michelle Kinson, and Holly Goldie manned the draw prize table. – Ted Tyler photo

## Looking Back

### Ten Years Ago

- Town Council pursued provincial cash to bring a Nurse Practitioner to Acton, which has the most acute need for family doctors.
- By a one vote margin, with opposition from the Acton councillors, Council approved the 13-unit Caranci subdivision on Bower Avenue.

### Five Years Ago

- Dwindling members made members of the Lakeside Chapter of the IODE in Acton question if the group could continue as they celebrated its 90th anniversary.
- The Pelitis family of Acton celebrated the 30th anniversary of Achilles Mazda. The family immigrated to Acton from Greece in 1971 and opened a car dealership in 1971.

## Letters

To the Editor,

On behalf of the Acton Community Hub Team, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you very much for your participation and support of the second annual LINKing North Halton event last Thursday. We feel that it was a huge success. There were 43 vendors who participated and some of them were different than last year.

It was a flurry of activity for the first couple of hours. We've approximated that 180 people came out to take advantage of having that many community resources available at one time! One person commented that it was "One stop shopping." Who doesn't like that?

We added "youth" as a group that we really wanted to engage with this year and they definitely showed up. The service providers were thrilled to see so many young people. On that note, I would like to thank Ac-

ton High School and all of its staff, including custodians. The principal (Darlene White) didn't hesitate when we asked her if we could host our event in her school again, and her ongoing support is so appreciated. Teachers encouraged their students to come, and some of them came to see for themselves. Thank you Acton High School – you were a big reason that we had such a successful event.

This event is in response to a need. A need to simplify the process of finding services in north Halton. It's also a reminder to continue working together, to keep challenging ourselves to find better ways to support our communities, and a reminder to celebrate our successes. We work hard each day so it's important that we all remind ourselves that WE ARE making a difference and this event is evidence of that.

Thank you to the Independ-

ent, and the Acton Tanner for helping us to communicate this message back to the community.

I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Sue Brooks and the Halton Student Support Leadership Initiative for their generous support of this initiative. You made such a difference for us (fancy bags included).

And finally to the Acton Community Hub Team of whom I have the utmost respect. It continues to be an honour and privilege to work with each of you. No challenge has ever been too great for you to not be willing to take it on. I learn from you every time we get together. We learn from each other, we laugh together and we work hard, especially for a committee.

You're all an inspiration.  
Thank you.  
Alison Hilborn



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