Councillors take 'significant' step to deal with surplus property

Looking for best use and value

On Monday, Town Council is expected to ratify a general committee decision to declare four Town properties surplus, and publicly post notice of their potential sale. The properties include vacant land on the Third Line adjacent to the former United Presbyterian Church, the former Guelph Street ambulance building, the Memorial arena site and vacant land behind the Civic Centre.

Regional/Ward Two Councillor Jane Fogal said maps and better descriptions of the properties to be deemed surplus are needed and asked that they be added to the Town website. She also asked what any proceeds would be used for, as she'd believed it would go to the Town's arena program. because the idea to look for surplus land revenue was part of an arena budget resolution.

Terry Alyman, the Town's Director of Recreation and Parks said proceeds would be "redirected back into the Town's capital reserves to address Council's capital (budget) pressure, in gen-

To help the Town find the best value and best use of the surplus properties Alyman recommended awarding a \$60,266 contract to Dillon Consulting Limited to create development options for three of the properties to be considered as surplus – the



CHRISTMAS CAROLS: Members of the Acton Citizens Band entertained a large crowd with Christmas music at the Light Up The Hills ignition ceremony on Saturday at the Town Christmas tree in Acton **East.** – *Ted Tyler photo*

ambulance station, arena site and Civic Centre land.

Initially critical of spending \$60,000 for a consultant, Councillor Fogal now likes that Dillion will include public input in the process, and

provide more opportunity to talk with the building industry. Councillor Mova Johnson said they could just stick a For Sale sign on a property, but in the case of the Civic Centre area land, they need

to "have a vision for that property and then go looking for the right person to build out that vision..."

Mayor Bonnette agreed with Councillor Johnson that they were making a "significant" decision, Town," Bonnette said.

and without the necessary expertise on staff, the consultant will help them "not necessarily just get the biggest buck." "We want to see the best value, but also the best use for the



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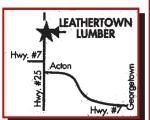
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