

Winter plowing budget getting snowed under

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

All the snow over the past few months has taken its toll on the snow plowing allotment of the town's winter control budget. "We've had a lot of snow so we have had to do a lot of plowing," said Ted Drewlo, manager of operations for the town. "But we haven't had to do a lot of salting and sanding." He says that 89 per cent of the snow plow budget, 55 per cent of the sanding

budget and 50 per cent of the salting budget have already been spent. The budget is from January to December 1993. As of March 5, the town has spent \$244,830 of the \$376,033 budgeted for winter control functions. Long snowstorms with heavy accumulation put a dent in the snow plow budget; several flurries, without a lot of accumulation, eat up the sanding and salting budgets. "In previous years we have underspent on snow plowing, and overspent on sanding

and salting." He says the winter of 1985 was the one that stands out in his memory as another year with a lot of snow. "But we still have to get through November and December (of 1993)," said Drewlo. He is hoping there won't be much more snow for the rest of this season, and only light accumulation early next winter. But regardless, the town will keep the roads clear, so if they go over the budget, they have to dip into the engineering budget for additional money.

No signs of spring ...yet



Although today is the first official day of spring, we have yet to receive any reports of robins returning from their southern homes. According to the '93 Farmer's Almanac, March will roar out like a Lion and it may be a few weeks before we see our redbreasted feathered friends.

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WEEKEND

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News

Digest

Acton blood donor clinic

A blood donor clinic will be held in the Acton Legion Hall on Thursday, March 25, 5-8:30 p.m. Anyone 17-71 years of age are urged to come out; blood supplies are low in all blood groups. A photo and signature I.D. card is required. Please come out and bring a friend.

Lions seek '92 Citizen

Acton Lions are once again asking for nominations for Acton's 1992 Citizen of the Year, and are accepting names of deserving citizens or groups for the honor. Nominations, complete with supporting resumes, must be postmarked not later than March 30, 1993 to Acton Lions Club, Citizen of the Year, P.O. Box 28, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M2. The recipient will be announced in April, and the annual honorary dinner will be held April 30, at Acton Legion.

Acton High reunion

Acton High School Reunion Committee is still looking for 1977-78 grads for its 15 year reunion, April 24 at the Legion. For info call Patti Gordon at 853-4728. Tickets can be bought at Halton Hills Furniture and Appliances on Mill St., Acton.

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Winter fun on Spring Break

Georgetown youth Mike Boyington became airborne during a trip down Cedarvale Park hill in Georgetown Wednesday afternoon, where many local youngsters spent countless hours of winter fun during the March Break.
STEVE LeBLANC Independent/Free Press

Teachers reject pay donations

By ANGELA BLACKBURN

Special to the Independent/Free Press

Plans to reduce the Halton Board of Education's 1993 budget by \$1 million through individual donations of one day's pay by teachers received a major setback when the local teachers' union rejected the request.

The position was arrived at during a special March 9 meeting of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF).

"I'm disappointed, not discouraged," said education director Bob Williams at a recent Halton Board of Education meeting.

He levelled his criticism at the union's provincial body and accused them of interference.

"I strongly resent that kind of strong-arm tactic from what I once considered a professional organization," said Williams. "I strongly resent interference in a local situation."

Williams, who said he's been a voluntary member of the OSSTF since he left teaching approximately 15 years ago, said, "They didn't even do me the courtesy of giving me a call."

The director said he learned of the decision during the course of the board meeting March 11.

Williams said he remained convinced that "in the clear light of day," local teachers would weigh the information and said he "hoped they'd make a decision of conscience."

Over the past month, Williams has met with staff members from the board's 11 employee groups, associations and unions, attempting to explain the need for a charitable donation to reduce the 1993 school board budget.

The budget now sits at \$291 million which represents a 2 per cent spending increase. This translates to a 4.01 per cent mill rate increase of \$50 more in taxes for the average household.

However, this won't be achieved, warns Williams, unless the board recovers \$1 million through the charitable donations from teachers or lays off 75 staff.

See TEACHERS, page 3



BOB WILLIAMS

MARCH TAX BREAK ENDS SUNDAY

Now through March 21st, we'll knock 15% off our lowest ticketed prices — equivalent to us paying your GST and PST — at Leathertown West Wearhouse, the Flight-Line Leather Store and the Hide House! (Furniture and foodservice not included)

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