

# Seniors' centres hit hardest in latest budget cuts

By LISA TALLYN  
Staff writer

Halton Hills seniors were the hardest hit in the town's latest round of budget cuts sparked by the province's expenditure control plan.

At Monday's committee meeting town treasurer Ray King outlined to council members how approximately \$180,000 could be cut from the town's already tight budget, with a contribution made by each department. King's report was approved, and may get final approval at the next council meeting (Monday).

In the cuts a capital contribution of \$32,000 was eliminated for the Acton Senior Centre project and an allowance of \$14,500 was slashed for the Georgetown Senior Centre.

Paul Stover, superintendent of facilities for the town, said the \$32,000 cut was to be put toward beginning actual renovation on the Acton senior centre (the old fire-hall), and wouldn't have made the facility usable this year anyway.

He added the \$14,500 for Georgetown wasn't targeted for anything specific, but was to be reserve funding.

"It was difficult to make the cuts," said Stover. "But that money wasn't going to reap any real benefits this year."

Les Mellish, of the Georgetown and District Seniors Association, said the town is taking "a very simplistic approach to adjusting to the conditions."

"The town's money could have been managed without singling out the seniors," said Mellish. "If they go ahead with them (the cuts) they will be victimizing their own seniors."

"All the councillors see are the dollar figures, they don't realize what it (senior's centre) means to the people."

Mellish said the recent cuts will

make it even more unlikely a senior's centre will be built in Georgetown by 2000.

"We want a seniors centre in this community as soon as possible. The political will doesn't seem to be there. They (council members) are hiding behind the funding cuts."

Pat Giguere, treasurer of the Acton Seniors Centre Committee and president of the Acton Golden

Age Club said the cuts are disappointing and frustrating.

"It's terrible," said Giguere. "We had such high hopes and worked so hard for so long. I think they are letting the Acton seniors down badly. We are taxpayers too, but they seem to be catering to the younger crowd."

Giguere is not certain how these cuts will affect the chances of the firehall being renovated for the seniors in the future.

Ward 4 councillor Al Cook said he didn't like to see the seniors being cut out of the budget.

"The seniors have worked very hard for the past four years," said Cook. "If they are going to cut it out of the budget this year, I want to make sure it is put in 1994's budget."

Along with the \$52,409 cut from the town's recreation and cultural budget, \$66,755 was slashed from the transportation budget. Those cuts included \$4,000 from the master drainage plan study for Georgetown West and South, the elimination (\$3,000) of the transportation study review and the Black Creek Court drainage study (\$3,000) this year. Bridge repair work on Guelph St. near Mill St. has been shelved (\$7,500).

An additional \$23,046 was cut from the general administration budget, \$14,276 from the fire department, \$5,636 from building and bylaw, \$3,264 from planning and development and \$9,322 from the library budget.



A few of this summer's leaders for the town's summer camps dropped by St. Joseph's School recently to familiarize the students with the numerous summer camps available through the Rec Department.

## GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE

### WEIGELAS

The Weigela is an old-fashioned flowering shrub that has adorned gardens for many years -- and with good reason. Weigelas are absolutely spectacular when in bloom! They produce an abundance of 2" trumpet shaped flowers in colors from pink to burgundy-red (depending on the variety) from late spring to early summer, and then sporadically throughout the summer.

Noteworthy Varieties Include:

**RED PRINCE WEIGELA** - An upright growth habit when young but later develops arching branches at maturity. Deep burgundy-red flowers, that do not fade. (4-6 feet at maturity).

**BRISTOL RUBY** - Grows 5 to 6 feet tall with red-purple flowers. Very similar to the Red Prince. Blooms sporadically for the remainder of the season.

**Purple** - Has a green-purple leaf with deep pink trumpet flowers. Reaches a height of 4 feet at maturity.

**Minuet - Dwarf** (11/2-2 feet) with medium pink flowers.

**V A R I E G A T E D WEIGELA** - A variety with variegated green and cream foliage and light pink flowers in May. (3 feet at maturity).

**JAVA RED** - A compact, dwarf variety with pine flowers and green foliage that are tinged purple.

Weigelas should be pruned in June, after they have finished flowering to improve their shape and structure.

All Weigelas are adaptable to various cultural conditions, but prefer a well-drained, loam based soil, with a full sun exposure. They are even said to be tolerant of pollution and have a reputation of being free of pests.

Weigelas show best when planted alone in front of a fence or wall or in mass and group plantings.

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## TUITMAN'S GARDEN CENTRE

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