

Councillors begin task of tackling new budget

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"We have tried to finance through creative means, trying to access other sources besides the tax levy," added Koopmans.

The capital budget covers projects, such as road reconstruction, the new Acton arena, improvements to facilities, and equipment.

Of the \$9.8 million about \$57,000 will go to the Administration department, \$3.9 million to Engineering and Public Works, \$332,000 to the Fire department, about \$36,000 to Building and Bylaw Enforcement, \$4,000 to Planning, about \$5.4 million to Parks and Recreation, and approximately \$35,000 to Library Services.

Engineering and Public Works projects included in the 1994 capital budget include Phase 6 bridge repair (between Mill and Queen streets) on Guelph St., Maple Avenue (east of Mountainview Rd.)

bridge replacement, reconstruction of a retaining wall on Park Ave. east of Main St., reconstruction of Ewing St. and Riverview Dr., the reconstruction of 10 Sideroad from Hwy. 25 to Third Line, repair of the Regan Ravine outfall and Moultray Crescent reconstruction. That department also received approval for a dump truck (\$26,000) and crewcab truck (\$19,000).

The budget committee approved the replacement of a Fire Pumper (\$300,000), a support vehicle (\$22,000) for the fire department, and Opticom Traffic Control System (so fire department personnel can change traffic lights when responding to emergencies).

Approved in the budget for the Recreation and Parks Department is the replacement of the Acton Arena (\$4.1 million).

Koopmans said the arena is included in this year's budget, even

though the project may not proceed this year. The land purchase for the arena is linked to the Acton Ontario Municipal Board hearing, and the outcome of the two fish habitat studies to be done this year.

"In order to qualify for community grants we have to show the arena in our budget. If it goes forward we have the approval to continue," said Koopmans. He added at this point the arena will not have an effect on the tax levy, funding for the arena will come from the reserve fund, grants, and regional debentures.

Budget committee deferred dealing with the acquisition of 30 to 35 acres (\$675,000) for a community park that will provide playing fields to make up for the current shortage in Georgetown. That item will be discussed during operating budget deliberations next month.

Also included in the capital bud-

get is completion of Eaton Neighborhood Park (\$35,350) in Georgetown South, structural repairs to Memorial Arena (\$28,000) and Acton Arena (\$15,000), an ice resurfacing machine for Acton Arena (\$45,400), an automatic door system to aid handicapped people at the Cultural Centre/Library (\$5,000), improvements to Cedarvale Park parking area (\$17,500), a tractor and gang-type mower for grass cutting (\$60,000), upgrading play equipment at Emerson Park in Georgetown (\$45,000), play equipment, a softball field, pathways and landscaping at Maple Creek Neighborhood Park (\$109,700) and play equipment for Donald Mann Park (\$10,000).

The next budget meeting is set for Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. where grants to groups will be discussed, the operating budget will be discussed on Feb. 15 at 5:30 p.m.

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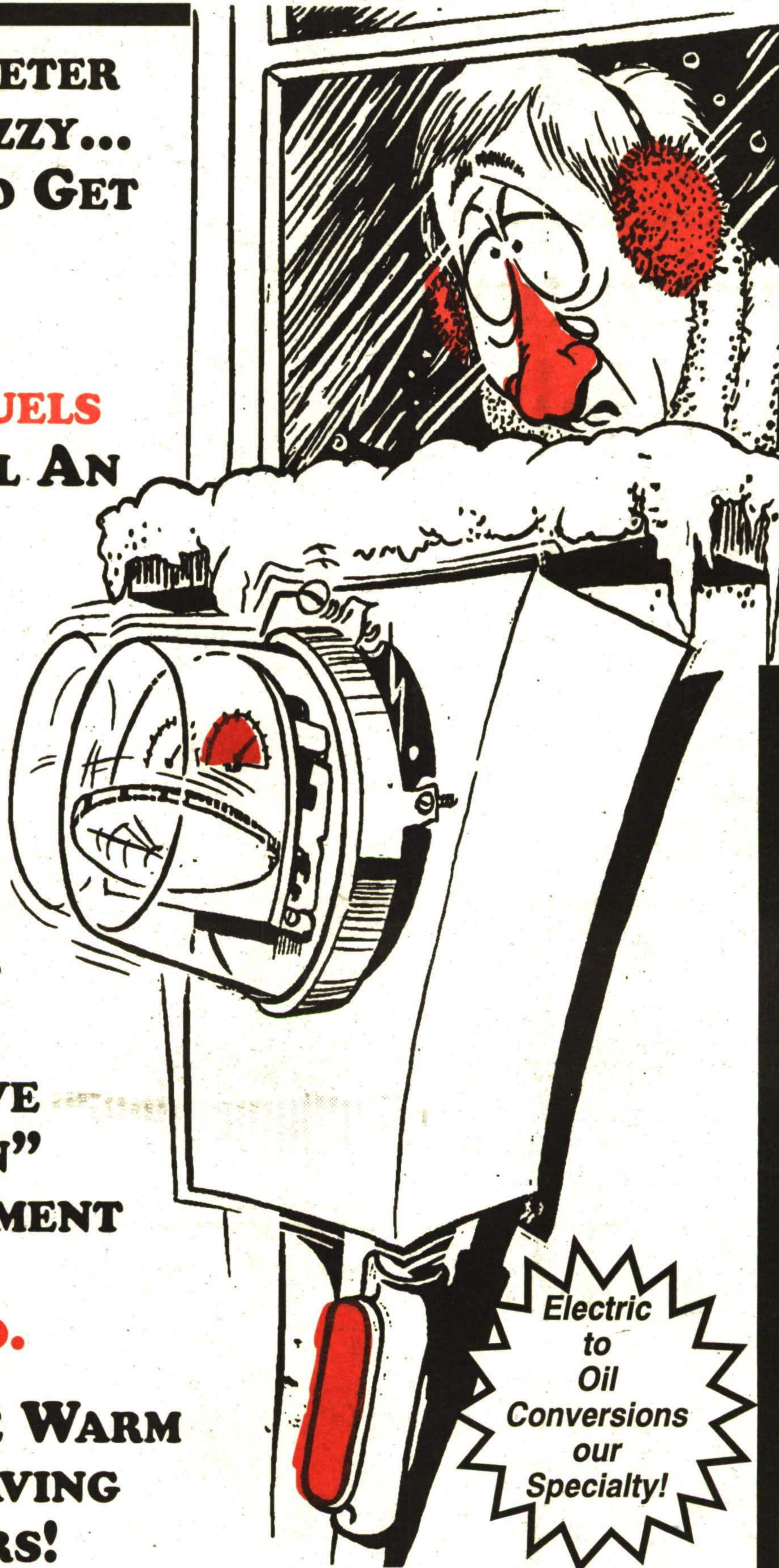
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