

TOWN DIGEST

FOURTH LINE SAVINGS

An early tender call resulted in big savings for the Town's project to resurface the Fourth Line between 15 and 17 sideroad. Last Wednesday, Council approved a \$313,174 bid by Graham Bros. Construction – the budget was estimated at \$500,000.

The project calls for the existing road to be pulverized, graded, compacted and repaved with three layers of asphalt. Graham Bros. will have a foreman, a superintendent and a flagman on the project to keep traffic moving and to deal with any public issues quickly and efficiently.

ASSESSMENT BALANCING

With 89.3 per cent of its taxes coming from residential property owners and 10.7 per cent from commercial/industrial and institutional property tax payers, Halton Hills experienced a slight shift in

tax burdens in 2012.

The Town relies heavily on tax revenue generated from the assessment base and continues to work to increase the percentage of non-residential assessment to give home owners a break. Since 2010, the percentage of residential assessment has decreased slightly and the percentage of non-residential assessment has increased slightly.

The average of residential assessment in Ontario is 85.9 per cent and the non-residential average is 14.1 per cent.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Halton experienced a 16 per cent increase in the total value of new construction and expansions in the fourth quarter of 2012 over the same period the previous year according to the latest economic development report. The increase is mainly due to a substantial increase in industrial and institutional investments staff reported – issued in-

dustrial permits jumped 949 per cent – to \$78.6-million from \$7.5-million – in the fourth quarter compared to the same period in 2011. Institutional permits increased by 652 per cent to \$101.7-million from \$13.5-million. In total, 1,971 building permits were issued Region-wide during the fourth quarter, a 30 per cent increase.

In Halton Hills, a total of 148 building permits were issued during the fourth quarter of last year with a construction value of \$38.5-million, with more than half for industrial permits.

HIGH RISK BEHAVIOUR REDUCTION

While teens still face difficulties moving into high school, the latest Halton Youth Survey Community Profile showed a decline in high risk behaviours and an increase in family support

and school safety.

The profile, which surveyed approximately 10,000 Grade seven and 10 students in Halton, assessed Developmental Assets – positive experiences and personal qualities kids need to become healthy, caring and responsible. Kids with more assets are more likely to do better in school, have more friends and make healthier decisions.

In the past three years, the survey found increases in almost all of the 20 measured Developmental Assets – the average numbers of assets for Grade seven and 10 students has increased, but Grade 10 students report fewer assets than Grade seven students, and boys have fewer assets than girls.

Regional officials with the Our Kids Network will use the survey data to continue efforts to support youth through Developmental Assets education, training and activities.

Advertorial

Let's talk FEET



NATURALLY SPEAKING

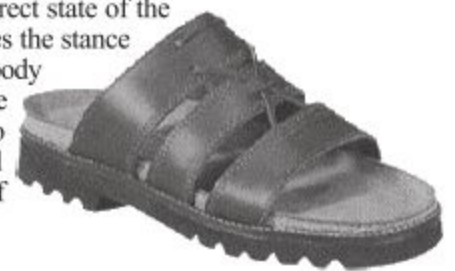
with
Louisa McCarley
RHN, ROHP/RNCP

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St. John 4:23 KJV

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