

# Quick okay for capital budget 2014

A 19.5 per cent "scope change" will add \$1.8-million to the price tag of the \$11.4-million Acton ice pad twinning project if the capital budget approved by the Town's budget committee last week is endorsed by Council in the New Year.

In possible record time, with no delegations or presentations, little debate, and no additions or deletions from councillors – possibly a first – budget committee members approved next year's proposed \$19.1-million capital budget. They

also approved, in principal, the 2015 to 2023 \$110.3-million capital forecast following a 40-minute meeting last Wednesday.

Acting budget chief Georgetown Councillor Moya Johnson sat as Chair for Mayor Rick Bonnette who is recovering from knee surgery. She credited staff's advance work for the quick and easy acceptance of the budget. "It doesn't mean that we carefully didn't look at it, but I think all the work done ahead by staff – I know there was probably some

heated discussions behind closed doors that we didn't see to prioritize items..." Johnson said.

In a report, Deanna Peter, the Town's Senior financial Accountant said the "financially challenging" 2014 capital budget addresses the Town's most critical infrastructure needs with 64 per cent of the budget earmarked to build and pave the roads, and provide the parks and arenas that residents/voters identified as priorities in the latest service survey.

Staff said a "scope change" for the Acton arena twinning includes a \$1.8-million cost escalation from the original \$9.5-million construction estimate in 2010. That includes additional costs for LEED (energy efficient) certification, and \$400,000 for integration of the adjacent skate park, if required.

Staff said the \$6.1-million expansion of the Trafalgar Road Operations Centre would allow the Town to "continue to enhance our road, park and trail maintenance program

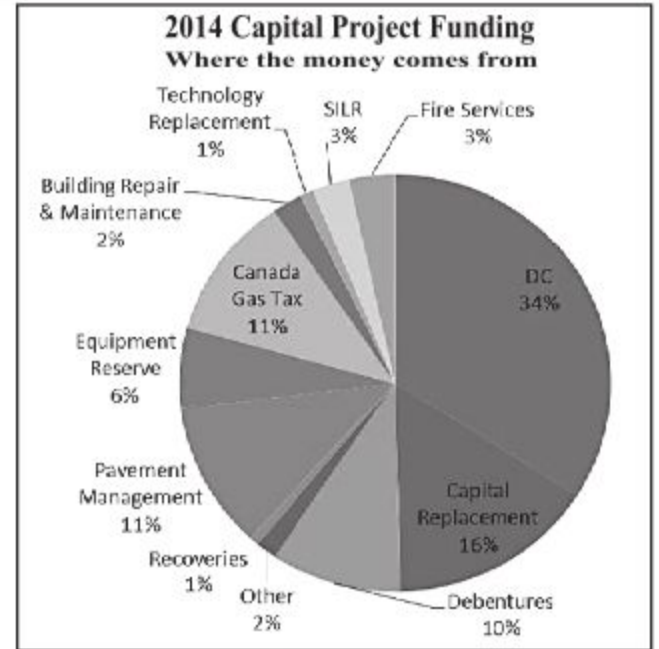
as the Town grows." Most of the cost is covered by Development Charges, Gas Tax revenue and the Equipment Reserve.

Some of next year's capital budget projects, which were ranked by staff, in the Acton area include:

- \$50,000 for consulting and design fees for renovations to the Acton Town Hall Centre for a youth centre/drop-in

- \$336,000 to reconstruct 32 Side Road, east of the Fourth Line, including removal of a knoll (hill) to improve driver sight lines and increase safe stopping distances at the intersection, as recommended by a Town safety study two years ago

- \$2.1-million to treat gravel roads with asphalt and gravel including Mill Street West from Main Street to Dublin Line, 25 Side Road between Nassagaweya/Esquesing Townline and Regional Road 25, Glen Lawson Road between the Third and Fourth Lines, and Third Line south of 22 Side Road to the south



end

- \$350,000 for engineering required to reconstruct the portion of Mill Street East between Wellington Street to Young Street

- \$25,000 to remove and replace deficient interlocking stone with concrete sidewalk on Mill Street in downtown Acton from Elgin to John Street

Staff said low Reserve Fund balances and various major capital projects will present "significant financial pressure" on the 2015 to 2023 capital

forecast and unfunded list of projects. The Town's policy says debt charges should not exceed 10 per cent – if anticipated Development Charges do not materialize, the Town's debt guideline would be 13 per cent, leading staff to monitor and develop funding strategies to "optimize resources."

Councillors went through the 2015 proposed capital budget in groups of five projects at a time and then gave approval in principal to the \$100.3-million 2015 to 2023 spending plan.

**Acton Physiotherapy Centre**  
 10 Eastern Ave, Unit 103 Acton ON

**MASSAGE THERAPY IS NOW AVAILABLE**

To book an appointment with **Samantha Manovich RMT**

Please call us at **519-853-1800**  
 or email: [actonphysio@yahoo.ca](mailto:actonphysio@yahoo.ca)

# Rallis Burgers & Grill

294 Queen St. E, Acton  
 519-853-5775

Dine In or Take Out  
 Catering for any occasion

Visit our website: [www.rallisburger.com](http://www.rallisburger.com)

Like us on Facebook

**Rallis Burgers & Grill**

**\$2.50** off your next order of \$15 to \$25 before taxes.

**LIMITED TIME SPECIAL**  
**MON - FRI 8 am - 11 am**

Ham, Chesse & Egg Sandwich

- With Choice of Bread
- Coffee included

**\$3.95**

**TO OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS:**  
*This Holiday Season, we at RALLIS would like to Thank You for your patronage, by offering you the following coupons:*

**Rallis Burgers & Grill**

**\$5** off your next order of \$25 or more before taxes.