



**COMMUNITY BOOSTER:** In honour of her unflinching volunteer work at the Acton Seniors Centre, Julie Conroy, joined by her proud daughter Theresa Wheatley and son Chris Conroy, received a Community Champion Award from the Rotary Club of Acton at its annual wine and cheese gala on Friday at the Town Hall Centre. – Ted Tyler photo

## Fire Report

**Gas smell**  
Acton firefighters advised Frederick Street homeowners not to use their gas stove until it is serviced after they answered a call at 9:07 last Thursday about an unknown odour. Firefighters could smell natural gas in the house, so they disconnected the stove.

**Alarm issues**  
A Brown's Crescent resident was advised to replace their carbon monoxide detector after it sounded without reason at 4:46 last Tuesday afternoon.

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At 5:44 p.m., Acton firefighters responded to a burn complaint on Poplar Avenue. The homeowner had a valid burn permit, but the fire was extinguished because of the complaint.

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Acton firefighters loaned a smoke detector to a Rachlin Drive family after their smoke alarm began beeping without apparent cause last Tuesday at 6:24 p.m. Crews checked the house, but could not find any problems, so they advised the homeowner to replace the hard-wired smoke detector.

# Lack of development changes stall some Acton projects

What is *not* in the Town's short and long-term capital spending plans is as telling as what is *in* the budget forecasts. While next year's capital budget includes \$12.49-million in projects, there is also a list of 24 so-called unfunded projects, totalling \$8.2-million that won't be built because there is no money.

The Town's capital forecast to 2021 has \$101-million in funded projects, subject to annual review, but there are also 193 unfunded projects costing \$116-million in the long-range forecast. The Town is counting on Development Charge (DC) revenue to help pay for the unfunded

projects. "Hopefully, we'll get some industrial development on the 401 corridor, and start getting some DCs which is really important," Mayor Rick Bonnette said following capital budget debate last Wednesday.

Because of the lack of DCs, \$2.3-million to reconstruct Glen Lawson Road is now on the unfunded list, along with \$2.4-million for the design, engineering and construction of an expanded Acton Seniors Centre, originally in the 2014/15 forecast, and \$2.45-million for design and construction of Acton Youth Space, originally in the 2013/14 forecast.

Following the meeting,

Acton Councillor Mike O'Leary said they can't do everything in one year, and noted there are major projects – expanding the Georgetown library and cultural centre and expansion at Mold-Masters SportsPlex – funded for next year.

"So much depends on Development Charges – a lot (of the budget) is just fixing things that need to be fixed," O'Leary said on Tuesday, adding just because a project is unfunded in a budget, doesn't mean that it will never be funded as DCs become available.

Regional/Acton Councillor Clark Somerville said the approved capital budget

and forecasts are "prudent" and "based on reality."

"Development Charges have slowed down, and they are a major source of funding. A year ago, we thought the economic situation would be better, but we're still in the midst of a horrible recession," Somerville said on Tuesday, predicting that the debate over the operating budget, slated for January, will be even tougher.

Included in next year's capital budget is \$858,000 to reconstruct Commerce Crescent, \$820,000 to replace the Maria Street bridge and \$200,000 for a South Acton Land Use Study.

# CRIME STOPPERS

The suspect(s) who broke into a rural Acton home and made themselves at home is the subject of this week's Crime Stoppers of Halton report.

On November 12, Halton police Service responded to a break and enter call at a residence that was under renovation, located on Regional Road 25. Overnight on November 11, the suspect(s) smashed the rear door window to get in.

Police found a small bottle of alcohol and numerous cigarette butts, as well as melted candles in the master bedroom. Nothing was missing and the only damage, estimated at \$200, was to the door.

Anyone with information on this, or any other crime, is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or at [www.haltoncrimestoppers.com](http://www.haltoncrimestoppers.com) or by texting "Tip201" with your message to 274637 (crimes).

# Full lost recovery debated

Faced with a four-year, 43 per cent increase in Town rental fees at the Georgetown Indoor Pool, the non-profit Halton Hills Blue Fins swim team asked to become "more active" in the Town's fee decision-making process.

Blue Fins spokesman Michael Zuraw made the request last Monday at a public meeting into a consultant's report that recommends a new full cost recovering policy for the Town's various rates and fees. Zuraw said like the Acton Aqua Ducks at the Acton Indoor Pool,

they pay a discounted affiliated club fee, but operated at a deficit last year.

When Dianne Theoret-Major, speaking for the Halton Hills Synchronos swim club, expressed similar financial concerns, and told councillors their group had not been informed by the Town of the rate and fee report, she was told there is still time to comment on the report.

Staff said declining enrollments in both swim clubs could be due to increased fees and/or a downturn in the economy.

Georgetown Councillor Moya Johnson, who noted the rate and fee increases are in response to higher costs, asked if the general taxpayer would pay, if the rates and fees are not increased, and was told 'yes.'

If Council approves the proposed rate and fee schedule on Monday, it would take effect January 1, 2012.

Some of the proposed changes to the Town's rates and fees include:

- No fee for licensing cats.
- An increase to 25-cents,

from 20-cents per day for overdue library material.

• While the consultants recommend a \$435 per hour fee for requested fire safety inspections, department staff said the current fee should be increased by three per cent to \$107.

• A new \$22 fireworks events fee for family fireworks and a \$213 fee commercial fireworks sales.

• The fee for an annual overnight/overweight permit would jump by 222 per cent to \$313, the same fee as Halton Region.

# Hamper deadline

Applications for the Links2Care Holiday Hamper Program will be accepted at Links2Care offices in Acton and Georgetown until December 2. The Holiday Hamper Program provides hampers of new children's clothing to children, aged 18 and younger, from lower income families in Halton Hills. If the holiday season might be financially challenging for you and your family this year, please feel free to drop by one of our locations to fill out an application form. Your personal information will be kept strictly confidential.

This program could not be possible without the generous and caring community members who sponsor families and donate

to Links2Care. If you would like to sponsor a family this holiday season, we will send you a family profile with the ages, sizes, and clothing needs of the children and then you shop for the items on the list. Donations of money, new children's clothing and gift cards are also very much appreciated as well.

In Acton, applications are available at the following Links2Care locations: Acton Links2Care Community Support Office, 47 Mill Street East, Acton (use John Street North entrance); Acton Employment Resource Centre, 45 Mill Street East, Acton; Ontario Early Years Centre, 85 Wallace Street, Acton. For more information, please call Cathy at 519-853-3310.