

Smoke alarm disposal program offered to residents

Last week's Fire Prevention Week theme was Don't Wait, Check the Date of your smoke alarms. Smoke alarms don't last forever and to maintain protection of your family residents should check the expiry date on the back of

the devices to ensure they don't expire. If you haven't yet checked your smoke alarms it's never too late. "We are trying to encourage everyone to check the date of their existing smoke alarms, and replace if older than 10 years," states Fire

Chief, John deHooge, re-enforcing this year's Fire Prevention week initiative.

For those who determine that they need to replace their smoke alarms, the Halton Hills Fire Department will now accept expired smoke alarms for

disposal at the Acton station at 21 Churchill Road.

Fire department staff have been reminding the citizens of our community for several years the importance of having working smoke alarms in their residence. "This is another step

you can take to ensure your family's safety in the event of a fire", reminds Mayor Rick Bonnette.

On duty Fire department staff will be available to assist with any fire prevention questions residents may have while

dropping off their expired devices. For further information or assistance with smoke alarms please contact Paul Sargeant, Acting Captain, Prevention Division at 905 873-2601 Ext. 2237 or via email sargeantp@haltonhills.ca

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LOCAL MOTION

Town Council adjusts meeting start time

By: Dawn Brown

Town council meetings will be starting at an earlier hour in 2017, after council voted to change the start time from 6:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the council meeting on Monday, October 17. However, high interest public meetings will continue to be heard at 6:30 p.m. Council will try holding council meetings earlier for one year before determining whether to make the change a permanent one.

Citing an opportunity to cut back on the costs of paying staff overtime as well as providing a better work/life balance to staff and councillors as reasons for the change, the new hours will also allow more opportunity for councillors to attend the number of evening events requested of them.

"We have staff that diligently come to these meetings, and might sit through the entire meeting and not be asked one question," said Council-



The eight annual Ink Writing Project, a judged poetry and short story writing contest for grades four through twelve announced this year's winners: (left) Luna Keogh, Veronique Bradley, Gloria Tobin, Emma Gormley, Kelsea Marcolini, Ailish McDonald and Allison Andreatta. Absent - Regan Turner. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Halton Hills Public Library. - Jane Dougan photo

lor David Kentner. "But they've added another four to five hours on to their day to be here."

Councillor Moya Johnson, however, voted in favour of leaving the start time at 6:30 p.m.

"It really limits the opportunity for people who have a day job to partici-

pate as councillor," said Johnson. "If they (meetings) start at four o'clock, I think it really rules out anyone who has a day job."

The report presented to council also acknowledged that the earlier start time could limit delegations who would like to speak before council. However,

thus far, there have been no public complaints regarding changes to the council structure in 2016 where many items are presented at committee meetings during daytime hours, and delegations have still appeared before the committees.

"If there was an issue

that concerned people, they would be here whether it (the meeting) started at 12 noon or 6:30 at night," Kentner said.

There are also plans for future enhancements to technology within the council chambers. The first phase, which will include a move towards electron-

ic agendas and minutes, is hoped to be in place by the end of November. Town staff are also exploring opportunities for web streaming committee and council meetings. Staff hope to have webcasting capabilities in place within the first quarter of next year.



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