

Council approves 2017 Rates and Fees

By: Dawn Brown

Halton Hills Town Council voted in favour of the 2017 Rates and Fees report presented by town staff at the council meeting this past Monday night. The report reviews and adjusts fees for permits and services where necessary. Funds collected as a result of these fees offset the town's tax levy. While some departments like Fire and Clerks departments will not see increases in fees, other areas like sportsfields, ice rinks, cemeteries and building permits will all see increases effective January 2017.

Sportsfield lighting increased five per cent as a result of market conditions

and increased operating costs, and sportsfield rates increased three to five per cent across the board. Ice rates also saw an overall increase of three per cent.

Councillor Bryan Lewis expressed his concerns about the increases.

"The reality is we are having some people who are seeking ice outside of town. We do ask them relative to practise time, and they say ice is cheaper," Lewis explained. "We're going up for ice use by three per cent." Lewis added, "We want to encourage our youth to get involved with soccer and softball, and they're going up five per cent."

Councillor Ann Lawlor agreed with Lewis's concerns and introduced an

amendment to keep the rates for sportsfields and ice the same, which was subsequently voted down by council.

"No rational person would expect with what's happened to hydro rates in Ontario there wouldn't be a cost at renting something which uses enormous amounts of hydro to provide ice or power lights," said Councillor David Kentner, who voted against the amendment.

Cemeteries also saw significant increases at five per cent, citing that current rates were below current market rates by 10 to 87 per cent.

Most building permit fees will also see an increase 1.87 per cent.

Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery awarded to local trio



FIRE REPORT

Monday, November 14

7:36 p.m. Fire fighters responded to an alarm activation on York St in Acton. On scene fire staff met with building personnel who advised that a pull station had been activated. Fire staff entered the building and upon investigation found another pull station activated in the basement. Fire staff silenced the alarm and reset the pull stations and the alarm.

Tuesday, November 15

At 6:11 p.m. Fire fighters responded to the report of an unknown odour on Queen St E in Acton. A resident walked into the station and said they thought they could smell a rotten egg smell across the street. Fire staff attended

the scene and using detectors found zero readings.

Thursday, November 17

2:49 p.m. Fire fighters responded to an alarm activation on Acton Blvd in Acton. On scene fire staff met with building personnel who advised that the pull station had been activated by a student. The alarm was reset and the student was spoken to about the importance of not creating a false call for the Fire Department.

Friday, November 18

10:24 a.m. Fire fighters responded to the report of a natural gas line break on Church St W in Acton. On scene fire staff met with the homeowner who advised that while replacing a fence post they hit the service line for the house.

Union Gas dug a hole to shut off the gas and fire cleared the scene.

At 5:52 p.m. Fire fighters responded to an ambulance assist on Fourth Line. Ambulance was on scene upon arrival and advised fire was not required.

Sunday, November 20

7:29 p.m. Fire fighters responded to an alarm activation on Turtle Lake Drive in Acton. On scene fire staff met with the homeowner who advised that unattended food on the stove caused a small amount of smoke to be produced in the kitchen area. Fire staff confirmed there was no signs of extension to any other areas of the kitchen and cleared the scene.

Former Halton Hills Fire Chief Brent Marshall, the Town's current Chief Administrative Officer and Deputy Chiefs Harry Olivieri and Bruce Morrison have received the Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery – the province's highest honour in recognition of firefighters whose actions demonstrate outstanding courage.

The trio were honoured on November 24 while attending the Investiture Ceremony at Queen's Park. The medals were presented by The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and The Honourable David Orazietti, Minister of Community Safety and

Correctional Services.

In November 2015, Chief Marshall and Deputy Chiefs Morrison and Olivieri arrived at a fellow firefighter's home to discover the house on fire and he and his wife inside. Without the aid of breathing apparatus or protective clothing, the three officers entered the home countless times before the Guelph Fire Department arrived.

"Nothing can prepare you for the emotion of attempting to save one of your own," said Mayor Rick Bonnette. "I am very proud of their actions that terrible day last November."

John deHooze, Commissioner and Chief of Fire Services, attended the Provincial ceremony as Halton Hills' new Fire Chief. "These officers entered a smoke-filled building, not once, but many times, completely unprotected, putting the well-being of the family ahead of their own," added deHooze.

Since 1976, 223 Ontario Medals for Firefighter Bravery have been awarded. An independent body of citizens from the firefighting and policing communities representing all regions of Ontario determines medal recipients.

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