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NEWS

Funding for new skate park in Georgetown included in 2018 budget

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Halton Hills' budget committee approved the town's proposed 2018 capital budget on Wednesday (Nov. 15) with funding for a new skate park in Georgetown.

The new venue, which will be called the Georgetown Sports Action Park, will be located at the Gellert Community Park and will also feature two multi-purpose courts.

The project was very well received and had councillors excited during Wednesday's budget committee meeting.

"I'm pleased to see this finally on the books," said Ward 4 Coun. Ann Lawlor. "I think that the current park at Mold-Masters (SportsPlex) has been too small for a long time. It was built several years ago and the surface is now quite deteriorated.

"Having this additional (park) is going to be a really big draw," added Lawlor.

"I'm also very happy to see this project included (in this year's budget) and agree with Coun. Lawlor's comments," said fellow Ward 4 Coun., Bob Inglis. "I'll boil it down to much-needed youth services

here in town, for sure."

This will be the third skate park in Halton in addition to the park at Mold-Masters and Three Musketeers Park in Acton.

According to town staff, the future of the smaller, outdated park at Mold-Masters will be decided next year. The town may upgrade it and maintain both in Georgetown.

Staff described plans for the park as similar to the current park in Acton, which is much newer and larger, and more popular among the town's youth than its current counterpart in Georgetown.

"I soon as I saw that Acton Park, I wanted one and have been drooling ever since," joked Coun. Jane Fogal. "I think its more than just a wanted facility, I think it's badly needed as a way to keep our youth more active, engaged with other kids out there and away from screens."

Residents will have an opportunity to weigh in on the design of the new \$800,000 skate park, and if all goes well, staff expects construction to begin in the summer or fall of 2018.

Upgrades to processing plant will reduce sewage smell

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The Georgetown Wastewater Treatment Plant will be receiving some reprieve with changes to the incoming septage.

During a Nov. 8 planning and public works meeting at the Region of Halton, council heard of some changes happening at the Biosolids Management Centre in Oakville, and those changes will positively affect the Georgetown Wastewater Treatment Plant.

In 2012, regional staff initiated a study on how to better manage incoming sewage and septage, as well as assessing when new receiving facilities will be required. At the conclusion of the study, the region recommended

a centralization of septage reception: the project will see reduction in truck traffic through residential communities, reduced noise and odour, and centralizing septage in one location.

According to Halton Hills Coun. Jane Fogal, she has received numerous complaints regarding the smell coming from the plant, and commissioner Jim Harnum explained those issues should be solved with the upcoming project.

"I do get regular complaints about odour from the Georgetown Wastewater Treatment Plant," Fogal said at the meeting. "How much will this particular intervention reduce the odour complaints that we are receiving?"

Harnum said the pro-

ject will have considerable changes.

"There are two different variables at the treatment plant: the flow and the loading," Harnum explained. Because of the treatment plant's size and the highly-concentrated amount of septage, odours have been increasing over the last couple of years.

"We feel this will dramatically reduce that."

Fogal then asked about any other interventions being put into place at the plant, and Harnum explained this particular change should do the trick, but options will be looked at should anything else come up.

Tenders will be sent out in 2018, and the region expects construction to begin in spring 2018. The project will cost approximately \$850,000.