

School gym rental fees climb

By **DOMINIK KUREK**
Metroland Media Group

The cost to rent a gym at a local school will be going up eight per cent in the coming school year.

The Halton District School Board's superintended of facility services Gerry Cullen told trustees that facility rentals rates will go up at the public and local Catholic school boards. Prices are kept the same at both boards to spread use of facilities evenly and to avoid overuse at one system.

Gymnasiums are the most common school rooms that get rented. Community groups currently pay \$12.08 per hour to rent a gym, while the 2013-14 price will go up to \$13.05.

The four municipalities in Halton Region facilitate facility rentals at the schools.

The eight per cent increase in rates, Cullen said, is a result of an increase in facility use, without an appropriate increase in grants from the Province.

The Ministry of Education provides school boards with a grant to subsidize the cost of facility rentals. The grant is calculated on school enrolment and not the volume of rentals or the actual cost of operating these spaces.

As the volume of facility rentals has gone up, the grant, in turn, has gone a shorter way.

"We don't get enough grant money for the level of participation we get," said Cullen.

In the current school year, the grant reduces the cost of facility rental by 41.1 per cent.

For example, the actual cost of a gym rental is \$20.54, and community groups pay \$12.08. Next year, the actual cost is projected to increase to \$21.46.

The board calculates the cost of operating the facility and estimates the volume of rentals for the following year. This information then determines how much the grants will reduce the rental rates.

As an example, in 2011-2012 the public board received \$676,729 in grant money for \$1,656,184 in rentals. If there is a balance left over at the end of the year, the board can use the money to support rental related needs, such as repairs to sites, create secure storage, etc.

At the end of 2012, the board had a balance of \$31,000. The board is calculating a negative balance for the end of this school year, in the amount of \$35,000.



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TOWN OF
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NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study Halton Hills Drive (Maple Avenue to Princess Anne Drive)

THE STUDY:

The Town of Halton Hills has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study for the connection of Halton Hills Drive, to link Maple Avenue with Princess Anne Drive. This project will assess existing and future transportation needs along the proposed road connection and other nearby road infrastructure in order to accommodate anticipated growth in this area.



THE PROCESS:

The Study is being carried out in accordance with the planning and design process for 'Schedule B' projects as outlined in the Municipal Engineers Association "Municipal Class Environmental Assessment" (October 2000, as amended in 2007), which is approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION:

Public consultation is a key component of this study. The project team will meet with the public to present the project details, review study findings, obtain public input, and address public comments and concerns.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1 - DETAILS:

Date: April 17, 2013
Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Location: Council Chambers, Civic Centre
1 Halton Hills Drive
Halton Hills

All interested members of the public are invited to attend this PIC to share their ideas and concerns on this project. If you cannot attend this PIC but wish to provide comments, please communicate your concerns to either one of the following project team members:

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Personal information is collected under the authority of Section 11 of the Municipal Act, SO 2001 and will be used for information purposes only. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

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