

BUDGET INCLUDES NUMBER OF NEW INITIATIVES

Continued from page 1

On the insurance front, Leighton explained that rates have been going up globally for a variety of reasons, including COVID-19, "catastrophic losses" resulting from climate change and the rising cost of future care for critical injury payouts.

As such, town staff is forecasting an insurance rate increase for the municipality of up to \$663,300 for next year.

This amount, combined with the WSIB reserve increase, accounts for 1.6 per cent of the potential tax rate hike. Council directed staff to explore options to fund or mitigate the projected increases.

Coun. Clark Somerville said he's spoken to municipal colleagues across the country, and they're all finding themselves in the same boat with budgets being driven by insurance

"It is never easy to put taxes up for people."

- Coun. Clark Somerville

costs.

"It is never easy to put taxes up for people," he said. "We spend so much time looking at the budget and going through it project by project to see what we can do, but you look at (the 2022 budget) and there's so much out of our control with insurance and WSIB."

In other budget news, funds will be earmarked to get some new initiatives off the ground, including the municipality's equity, diversity and inclusion strategy, and truth and reconciliation strategy.

The latter comes as welcome news to local Indige-

nous leader Sherry Saevil.

"I think it's absolutely fantastic," she said, going on to laud other steps the municipality has already taken on the truth and reconciliation front. "Halton Hills is really moving the needle when it comes to trying to raise that awareness within the community."

Councillors will review the budget on Dec. 6, with approval scheduled for Dec. 13.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: With the 2022 municipal budget process already getting underway for Halton Hills, we wanted to take a closer look at next year's projected tax increase and the key items driving the budget.



SCAN THIS CODE for more local news.



Alexandra Heck/Metroland

Coun. Clark Somerville says municipalities across the country are grappling with rising insurance costs.

NEWS

AVOID FINES, RETURN LIBRARY MATERIAL BY OCT. 1

Remember that book you signed out of the library to help pass the time in the early days of the pandemic?

Well, if it's still on your bookshelf, it's time to return it.

After waiving fines for overdue material between April 2020 and September 2021, the Halton Hills Public Library will soon begin charging fines again. To encourage the return of library material, any exist-

ing fines will be waived if the material is returned by Oct. 1, even if it was signed out prior to April 2020.

After Oct. 1, all overdue returns will be subject to fines based on the due date.

Fines will only apply to overdue items checked out on an adult's account. Library accounts for anyone up to the age of 17 will continue to be fine free.

Overdue items do still need to be returned, even

on fine-free accounts, or a replacement fee will be charged.

Library users who want to keep their items for longer can renew them, provided another library user has not requested it. Items can be renewed by logging into your library account or by contacting the library for

assistance.

Anyone with a library account can view what is checked out on their account online by using their library card number.

For assistance or for more information, contact the library at 905-873-2681, email askus@halton-hills.ca or visit the library website.



WALK-IN & FAMILY CLINIC
Where good health begins



905-873-6776

THE INDEPENDENT READERS' CHOICE 2021 PLATINUM WINNER

IN-PERSON & PHONE APPOINTMENTS
Call today!

Open 7 Days a Week

221 Miller Dr., Georgetown
GenesisHealthTeam.com



Now taking orders for Thanksgiving




Happy Thanksgiving
FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT MILLERS!

Check out our selection of **Breads, Buns, Meat Pies, British style Meats, Groceries, Desserts, Gifts and more.**

MILLER'S SCOTTISH BAKERY

905-877-0596

330 GUELPH ST., GEORGETOWN (opposite Canadian Tire)
www.millersscottishbakery.com

Closed October 11 for family time
Tues & Sat 9:30-6,
Wed-Fri 10-6:30, Sun 11-4,
CLOSED MONDAYS

Fresh made & baked on premises