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'ACTON'S OWN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER'

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1996

BETWEEN THE COVERS...



Tenants at a Ransom Street apartment building may be able to buy their units

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Actonites decide what Prospect Park needs to have and what needs to be fixed

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New Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs take best float overall at the Santa Claus parade

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New addition to Bethel Christian Reformed Church is completed

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Eight Eramosa residents are vying for vacant Township Council seat

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Record holder Daniel Newell is recognized for a 373 score for a 5-pin bowling game from February, 1994

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LOOK WHO'S COMING TO TOWN!

Santa Claus put on a great show for the crowds along Mill Street during Saturday's Santa Claus Parade. See Grapevine, page 7, for the names of the float winners and when to watch the parade on TV. (Karen Wetmore photo)

Town staff told to aim for no tax increase

Town staff's target of a maximum two per cent tax increase this year - approximately \$10 more on the tax bill for an average residential property - didn't sit well with a number of councillors who succeeded in directing staff to also prepare options showing a zero per cent mill rate increase.

In justifying a proposed two per cent tax increase - the first in six years - Treasurer Andy Koopmans noted inflation over the past six years has averaged slightly more than six per cent. The forecasted inflation level from now until 1999 is between one and three per cent. It would take a two per cent

mill rate increase to cover the cost of next year's municipal election and the assumption of responsibility for pool maintenance in Acton and Georgetown.

Koopmans noted the anticipated loss of \$600,000 in Provincial funding this year, combined with a loss of social contract reserve contri-

but ion, urban service allocations and additional capital financing that is required, would result in a 10.5 per cent mill rate impact which would be unacceptable.

Instead, staff suggest a combination of a small mill rate increase and some changes in service delivery methods and service levels be ap-

proved.

While Councillors Norm Elliott and Kevin Kuiack said they could support the two per cent tax increase, and, in fact Kuiack said he could go as high as a four per cent increase, Councillors Ron Chatten, Al Cook and Kathy Gastle argued they should

See CATCH-UP, Page 2

Indoor pool costs issue goes to vote

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Acton Tanner

A tentative deal to settle who will pay the future operating costs of the Acton Lions Indoor Pool, and six other pools in Halton Board of Education, will be voted on by the Board trustees at their Nov. 28 meeting.

The pact has already been ratified by the Town at an in-camera session last week and the other parties to the deal - Oakville and Burlington, which also have Board-owned pools in their municipalities - have approved the deal.

"I think they worked out an agreement that's suitable for everyone," Board Chair Linda Glover said Friday.

"I have no comment on the deal right now - it's tentative until the Board deals with it at the end of the month."

As part of its budget belt-tightening, the Board eliminated funding for the seven pools it operates in schools in three Halton municipalities, and announced that the pools would close Sept. 1.

Faced with a possible injunction from the municipalities, the Board backed off and agreed to keep the pools open during negotiations.

Heading into the months of talks that led to the tentative deal, the Town said it would cost in excess of \$200,000, or about a three per cent tax increase, to maintain the pool annually.

In an interview on Friday, Paul Stover, the Town's Manager of Facilities, said the negotiations had been "amiable" and he hoped the tentative pact would "do the trick."

"We're trying to deal with the budget realities of the day," Stover explained. When asked whose budget realities were reflected in the deal, Stover said, "It's all part of the big picture I guess, who's providing the service, and that's all part of what is outlined in the deal."

When the Acton Lions Pool was built, it was agreed that the Board would maintain and operate it for "the life of the pool." The Board said that life was up during its last budget debate.

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