

# the mayor's column



Council is deep in budget discussions. We have had many meetings on this year's budget. This will be the first year that the Pavement Management Plan will be implemented. What is the Pavement Management Plan? This was supported last year at budget and something that I had campaigned on. This is where we increase your taxes by 2%. This 2% goes directly to resurfacing roads. Nothing else.

The Town is \$57 million dollars behind in repairing roads. You may ask "how in the world did this happen?" I will give you a quick history lesson on the Town of Halton Hills. Acton, Esquesing, and Georgetown were amalgamated in 1974 to become the Town of Halton Hills.

The Province wanted to see this marriage work so they gave one dollar for every dollar the Town spent on roads. When I was first elected in 1982, the Province was already reviewing its contribution for every dollar the Town would spend on roads. By the early nineties, the Provincial Government of the day cancelled their contribution for roads, leaving the municipality to pay 100% of all road repairs. The Province continues today to pay 90% of construction costs only on those portions of Highway 7 in the urban areas.

To reconstruct one kilometer of road is a cost of approximately \$1.5 million dollars. Now you get the picture. It doesn't take long to be \$57 million dollars behind in roads.

As I write this, I do not know where we will be in the budget, but whatever the outcome, you can be sure that 2% of a tax increase will go directly to our roads to make them safer for our community.

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On behalf of Council, I welcome the following new business:

Georgetown Chevrolet Inc.

Congratulations to Halton Hills Electrical Contracting, Acton as it celebrates thirty years of service.

\* \* \* \*

Lastly, it has been a month since the Tsunami rocked the world. Television has shown many news clips of the devastation in Asia, and the horrific events suffered by the people. I have said it before, and I will say it again, that Halton Hills is generous. There have been many fundraisers to help the victims. The Georgetown Choral Society and Achill Choral Society hosted a benefit concert that allowed many of our local talents to perform. Also, the local Optimist Club hosted a spaghetti dinner. My hat is off to all of those who gave so generously of your time, and those who attended and contributed to these worthwhile events.

\* \* \* \*

Keeping it real! I can be reached by telephone at 905-873-2601, ext. 2342, or by e-mail at mayor@haltonhills.ca

Thank you for 17 great years!

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- BAD BREATH
- YELLOW/BROWN DISCOLORATION ON TEETH
- RED GUMS
- GUMS THAT BLEED EASILY
- LOOSE OR MISSING TEETH

One of the earliest signs of dental problems is the formation of tartar (calculus). Tartar is composed of bacteria. If tartar is allowed to remain on the teeth, several things may happen:

- Infection will accumulate in the mouth, resulting in gingivitis, tonsillitis and pharyngitis (sore throat).
- Although antibiotics may temporarily suppress the infection, if the tartar is not removed from the teeth, infection will return quickly.
- Infection within the mouth will be picked up through the blood stream and carried to other parts of the body.
- Some kidney and heart disease may be caused by this infection.

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