

## Discuss Teen drop-in plan

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

Acton teens would have one of the things they want most - a comfortable, safe place to hang out and call their own, if on-going talks about a proposed drop-in centre between numerous

Acton and area agencies and groups work out.

Halton Hills Community Support and Information (formerly Assic) has long recognized the need for a drop-in centre in Acton and recently began talks in earnest with Parent Talk, a group of interested parents of

teens at Acton High. Parent Talk members surveyed Acton teens and the drop-in centre topped their list of wants. The proposed mission statement for the drop-in centre is to provide a safe and healthy environment for teens to enjoy a social atmosphere where there is help and direction that will improve the quality of their lives.

HHCS&I agreed to put up \$5,000 to hire a co-ordinator.

"We think its going to be fairly easy to open a centre. There have been drop-ins in Acton in the past, but the issue has been how to keep them open," said HHCS&I executive Rosslyn Dowell.

"Acton teens are not as well served as they could be. We're trying to get a handle on what services are available locally and what this age group can access outside of town," Dowell said, adding that they are working in the preliminary stages with a steering committee that includes teens and representatives from public health, education, the business community and the Town to see if the plan is viable and if there is funding to keep it open.

"There are a number of teens who don't have a place of their own and hang out on the street. Those requiring service are accessing the services that are available but that sometimes means referral to services outside of Acton and Halton Hills. There are a number of services that we hope to attract to the Acton community that would supplement the drop-in," Dowell explained.



**SWEET SERENADES:** Members of the junior and senior choirs at Robert Little school who to perform at Thursday's farewell party for veteran teacher Rosemar Black, who retired in December after teaching her entire 38-year career at Robert Little. Front row, left to right: Melissa Brownlee, Melissa Hynds, Mega McCluskey, Julia Niblock, Kiersten Duncanson, Hjoerdis Stockinger and Dian Drechsel. Back: Edith Bovay, Emily Bent, Kristin Holloway, Amy Ross, Samantha Rents, Jaimie Mitchell, Kyra Parker and Cassandra Stokes.



### BID DOCUMENT

Offers clearly marked as to contents will be received by the Purchasing Agent, Finance Department until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, April 23, 1998 for

**BID NO. 98-027**

### CONCESSION OPERATIONS PROSPECT PARK, ACTON

The Recreation and Parks Department wishes to contract out the operations of Concession Services at Prospect Park, Acton for the 1998 park season. Terms of Reference and Tender Form can be viewed or obtained through the Finance Department, Purchasing Services.

Inquiries should be directed to:

Form of Tender: Sharon Collie, Buyer

Specifications: Paul Stover, Superintendent of Facilities, ext. 264

Under no circumstances, will facsimile bids be accepted or considered. Highest or any bid not necessarily accepted.

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## Town will spend on roads, not on RAM

The Town's budget committee now has a pretty good idea how much property taxes will increase for Halton Hills residents will pay this year. Last night (Wednesday) Town treasurer Andy Koopmans briefed the committee on the blended impact of the Town and Region's budgets and provincial downloading.

After four days of budget deliberations over the past two weeks budget committee members - the mayor and all councillors - asked Koopmans to prepare a summary of the impact of all the increases. Councillors instructed staff to bring back a budget with no more than a 2 per cent tax increase but additions made by committee members would result in a 2.8 per cent tax increase. If that is financed through the tax levy it would translate to an additional \$32 for the average residential property for Town purposes only.

### Capital budget

Rural road repairs won out over a high tech computer system as the budget committee struggled with this year's \$4.6 million capital budget last Wednesday night. The preliminary budget prepared by staff focuses on

projects that improve, rehabilitated or replaced existing capital assets, and not buying new equipment or building new structures.

Having already added \$115,000 for Sixth Line repairs to staff's no-fat budget, committee members also approved \$20,000 for engineering work for long-requested repairs on the Fifth and Eighth Lines.

A demonstration of a sophisticated computer system, a proposed corporate project to be used by four departments, failed to sway the committee, which cut the \$100,000 project. An extra \$10,000 was approved, to double the amount the Town will spend for tourism this year.

Budget committee members rejected another request from Main Street South area residents supported by the mayor, who asked for a 42,000 sidewalk to improve safety, south of Maple Avenue in Georgetown.

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott was upset the item was back a second time, arguing that safety was the reason that all eight of the proposed road projects referred to the budget committee were on the agenda.

"I'm sure not going to leap-frog this sidewalk project to the detriment of the people in Ward 2 who have been asking for repairs for safety reasons for years. Elliott said, who then urged the committee to "take a bit of reality."

"All we've accomplished so far after our third meeting is to add \$115,000 to the budget and now we're talking about another \$42,000 and we're already looking at tax increases numbers near 3 per cent," Elliott said adding that councillors were being "bombed from every sector of the community" about rumoured tax hikes.

Treasurer Andy Koopmans said that if councillors chose to offset the \$80,000 impact of the changes they made, they would have to increase the contribution from the operating budget from the capital by that amount which translate to a 0.8 per cent tax hike.

### Operating budget

The proposed \$18.7 million operating budget has already been pared by additional \$460,000 by staff when budget committee began deliberations. The lion's share of the operating budget is earmarked for public works and engineering projects.

Although the budget committee did approve changing the status of eight contract employees to full-time workers, they approved only one of two fire prevention officers requested in the fire department's \$1.7 million budget. Committee approved the hiring of a contract planner to fill a long-vacant staff position with a cost of \$25,717 for the remainder of the year and extended the contract of a systems support worker for the finance department at a net cost of \$30,469 for this year.

Ward 2 Councillor Kevin Kuiack attempted to convince committee to cut \$22,500 for a recreation and parks facilities strategy study, but he failed and the item remains in the proposed budget.

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