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# Tanner

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## What's Inside

# Blame province for \$133 tax hike



Simon Sharples shut out Joe's Lakers 6-0 as McKenzie-Smith Bennett Mustangs won the 'A' division championship at the inter-school hockey tournament last Thursday. Story and photos on Page 10.



Ever had a bolt through your tongue? First one at Acton High School is proudly displayed in photo on Page 5.

McKenzie-Smith Bennett Mustang volleyballers cruised to an easy win in the main event of a tournament Tuesday. See Page 10.



Rotary exchange student Alex Henninger compares life in Acton to his hometown of Heidelberg in Germany. See Page 12.



**BUNNY BONANZA:** Mrs. Wright's morning kindergarten class at Robert Little school got into the Easter spirit last Thursday by making and then wearing bunny ears. The bunnies stopped hopping just long enough to pose for this picture. Front, left to right: Kevin Hamilton, Francois Dionne, Billy Burgan and Rachel Pollard. Middle: Zachary Duncan, Tyler Townsley, Jessie Pond, Lauren Vermeullen and Emmy Atherton. Back: Michelle Thompson, Caitlin Dagleish, Samantha Savage, Heather McIsaac, Shelaine Adams, Iain Wright and Dylan Jubinville. - Frances Niblock photo

Average home pays \$2,684

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**  
The New Tanner

The average urban Acton homeowner with an assessed value of \$185,000 can expect to pay \$2,684 in property taxes this year. That's a 5.2 per cent increase - or \$133 - more than last year.

Almost all of the increase is due to increased costs to cover costs downloaded to municipalities by the Province.

At last Wednesday's final budget committee meeting councillors approved both the \$19.4 million operating and \$4.6 million capital budgets, but the bottom line tax impact won't be known until June when Halton Region finalizes its tax policies. The recent reassessment must also be factored in to come up with the final tax increase.

Although staff had been instructed to come back to committee with a budget reflecting no more than 2 per cent increase for Town purposes, Treasurer Andy Koopmans made a frank admission to the budget committee that he'd forgotten to factor in assessment growth and that the actual tax rate increase required this year for Town purposes is zero per cent.

The budget committee made some last minute changes to both the operating and capital budgets including adding \$5,385 to increase insurance on the Prospect Park arena, adding \$42,000 for a Georgetown sidewalk and removing a parking lot re-paving project for the same amount. Those changes resulted in \$87,500 more in financing required from the capital reserve fund and faced with either cutting an equal amount from the capital budget or increasing the contribution from the operating budget to the capital, the committee voted to transfer money from the operating budget, resulting in a 0.7 per cent - or \$4 - increase for Town purposes on the average tax bill.

## Old arena valve failure could cause problems for 1998 Fair

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**  
The New Tanner

The failure of a main sprinkler dry valve at the closed Prospect Park arena may mean that the Acton Agricultural Society won't be able to use the facility for September's fall fair. The valve failure could also be a major, expensive stumbling block to the Acton Agricultural Society's attempts to save the aging facility from planned demolition.

At the Society's request, Town council agreed to delay the demolition until after

the fair to give the fair board time to come up with a viable plan for uses for the building, if a structural report indicates that it can be repaired at an affordable cost. The Society has agreed to pay

for the \$1,800 engineer's study, but rejected a council request to share the current ongoing operating costs, pegged at \$12,203 so far this year, until they determine if they will proceed with their

plans. Paul Stover, the Town's Manager of Facilities said last Wednesday it would cost \$7,000 to attempt to repair the broken valve and \$15,000 to \$17,000 to replace it.

"I haven't had a chance to speak with the Fire Chief, but it's our understanding that this (the sprinkler system repairs) may be a requirement to be done for it (the building) to be used for the fair," Stover said.

Town staff have a stack of inspection reports indicating that the building requires

See FAIR, Page 2

### Citizen of Year dinner May 15

The Acton Citizen of the Year dinner will be held at Acton Legion hall on Friday, May 15 at 6 p.m.

Winners this year of the annual award, sponsored by Acton Rotary Club, are members of the Legion Terrace building committee.

Tickets for the dinner must be purchased in advance. They are available at Halton Hills Furniture, Lakeview Flooring and Kitchens and at the Legion. Cost is \$25.

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