



WINNING DONATION: McKenzie-Smith Bennett students in the Home Base 10 class won \$100 in the school's fund raising contest. They donated half their winnings to the Salvation Army's Adopt-a-Family program. Capt. Lyndon Hale accepted the money from students from the left: Kyle Wrigglesworth, Tim Tysoe, Lisa Schofield, Amy Foster and Luke Harris. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

TOWN DIGEST

Watershed cash

Subwatershed planning isn't "cheap or easy or quick" but it's essential to stop urban sprawl in sensitive watershed areas, including three in Halton Hills.

Halton Hills has given Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) the go-ahead to begin a subwatershed study of Silver Creek and in making her pitch to Town Council, CVC manager Vicki Barron said as the Town's environmental adviser, CVC needs "big picture information" to be effective.

"Over the past three to five years we've had a lot of tension in the Town because we've trying to get a big picture and have a big picture without the knowledge and information (the studies will develop)," Barron said.

The upset cost for the subwatershed study is \$266,111 and the Town will know early in the New Year if it will receive any or all of a \$100,000 request to the Green Municipal Enabling Fund to help pay for the study.

Capital controls

If a capital project is about to go over budget by more than \$15,000 or 10 per cent, Town Council will have to know about it before any additional money is spent, under new capital funding guidelines.

Under the current policy, Council gets a list of over budget projects on an annual basis, after-the-fact and Ward 2 Councillor Jane Fogal highlighted the need for a tighter policy, pointing to the \$248,000 spent for the Town's new snow dump facility, budgeted at \$75,000, and asking how it happened.

Town Administrator Steve Andrews said he'll be informed of any potentially over budget project and will "quickly come to Council" for approval.

Council deferred approval of \$456,017 in additional funding to complete a list of on-going capital projects, and asked staff to come back early next month with more up-to-date figures.

Hornby cemetery

Halton Hills is now responsible for the care of the final resting place of Hornby area Presbyterians and others buried in the Hornby cemetery at the northeast corner of Steeles Avenue and Eight Line.

The Hornby Cemetery committee, which lost its burial records when the Hornby Presbyterian Church was destroyed by fire in 1980, can no longer afford to maintain the cemetery that costs approximately \$1,500 a year.

The cemetery will be declared abandoned and the Town will take over the deed and spend about \$1,500 to stabilize existing monuments. The Town will also examine the site to see if there's room for more plots for interment.

Restructuring?

After pushing several amalgamations on reluctant partners, the province now

appears to have put municipal restructuring and governance on the back burner, giving local councillors a mixed message in light of two governance/restructuring issues scheduled by Halton in the New Year and a suggestion by Acton and Regional Councillor Rick Bonnette that the Town hold its own governance workshop, after Halton's.

Town administrator Steve Andrews said the province appears to have shifted its focus to bench marking and comparing municipalities to each other, leading one councillor to ask if the workshops are necessary.

"It sounds like they're (the province) backing off a little bit, but still we have to be prepared," said Councillor Bonnette, adding there's "pressure" from some Halton councillors to go full-steam ahead on the governance issue.

Jewish, Muslim Canadians celebrate Hanukkah, Ramadan

While the large majority of Canadians will be celebrating Christmas at this time of year, those of the Jewish faith will be observing Hanukkah, starting on Dec. 21. It is one of the most festive holidays in Jewish culture.

Meanwhile Muslim Canadians celebrate the end of Ramadan on December 25, an observance which started on November 27.

Hanukkah celebrates the victory of Jewish religion and political freedom over the Syrians. In 165 BC the lamp in the ancient Hebrew temple, which burned pure olive oil continuously, was recaptured after being taken over by the Syrian-Greek army, but there was only enough oil to burn for one day. However, a miracle occurred - the oil lasted for eight days, enough time for fresh new oil to be blessed.

Although Hanukkah is a holiday that is associated with few religious rituals other than lighting a menorah (oil-burning lamp) for eight consecutive days, there is no reason not to celebrate this happy time. Young children usually receive a small gift for each night of the holiday. People also honour this time by entertaining family and friends, eating traditional foods that have been deep-fried in oil and playing games. One of the most popular games to play is dreidel.

Ramadan is the ninth and most sacred month of the Islamic calendar. It is believed to be the month in which the Qur'an (Koran), the holy book

of Islam, was revealed to the Prophet Mohammed. During this time, Muslims are required to abstain from food, drink and sex from sunrise to sunset.

This communal fast seeks to instill within individuals feelings of love, sincerity, pa-

tience, devotion, unselfishness and willpower, as well as to develop a sound social conscience. It ends with a celebration called Eid-ul-Fitr, the Festival of Fast Breaking. Then the exact opposite happened during Eid when there's much eating.



Season's Greetings



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