

New Acton ambulance depot location chosen

Saving lives was expected to carry more weight than cutting costs when Halton Council dealt with its budget yesterday (Wednesday.)

This year's proposed \$304 capital spending plan includes \$1.7-million for ambulance system improvements, including \$400,000 for a new Acton station.

It will be located south of the Churchill Road fire station where ambulance crews have been temporarily housed since forced out of the leaking and unsafe station at the back of the Becker's plaza.

Halton land ambulance director Kim King said if the budget was approved, the next step would be to request design proposals for a 2,000 to 2,500-square-foot building to suit the lot - which Halton bought for \$60,000 - with a target of opening it this fall.

"We're not sure what all we can get on the lot and that's what we're going to put out to whoever the consultant is that gets the job," King said on Monday.

"We'll ask them to maximize the design for us. For sure, there will be one bay. Whether or not we can squeeze two in or not, that's ah, we're hoping we're going to get the best we can for what's available to us on the property," King said.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette said now they need to approach the Ministry of Health for money.

"We'll see if they'll match the dollars to build a first-rate ambulance building, which our ambulance department very much deserves."

Halton assumed responsibility for ambulance services in August, and is making significant changes, including building new stations, upgrading existing ones, hiring and training new paramedics. No additional staff will be hired in Acton for the new station.

Halton beefed up Acton ambulance service 18 months ago, staffing the Acton station around the clock, and that shaved 1:04 minutes off emergency response times. Provincial legislation requires Halton to meet 1996 targets of 13:07 minutes for urgent, high priority calls. In Acton, that average was 12:03 minutes in 1999.

Halton Hills is served by two, 24-hour, seven-days-a-week ambulance locations - Acton and Georgetown. The primary coverage area for the Acton station is bounded by 15 Side Road to the south, Guelph Line to the west, 32 Side Road to the north and Trafalgar Road to the east.



SCOUTING WEEK FEAST: Members of the Acton Scouting and Guiding community celebrated the birthdays of founders, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, at a pot luck supper at Acton High school last Thursday. Waiting to cut the cake were, from left, Beaver Kyle Slama, Cub Tom Rivers and Pathfinder Julia Niblock. Back: Leaders Jennifer Morrison, Chris Rivers and George Henderson. - Frances Niblock photo

Rural water quality subject of two information sessions

Residents using private well water supplies are invited to attend two water quality information sessions being hosted by the Halton Region Health Department. The intent of the sessions is to offer the community information and advice about any aspect of well water quality. Through displays, printed materials, models and first hand advice, residents can learn about the recent water quality survey conducted by the Health Department, common contaminants of water supplies, well deficiencies and much more.

Meeting will be held at Nassagaweya Community Centre (Brookville), from 1 to 9 p.m. on March 6 and at Limehouse Memorial Hall on March 8 from 1 to 9 p.m.

Testing your water supply regularly is an important part

of maintaining a safe water supply. Special water bottles will be available for residents to take home and sample their water supplies for the presence of bacteria. Water sample bottles can be dropped off at one of the water sample depots where they will be sent to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care laboratory in Hamilton.

Residents who would like to have their water supplies tested for nitrate can bring a sample of water (about a cup) in a sterilized jar and a public health inspector will test it for you.

Other highlights of the information sessions will include Halton Region's hydrogeologist who will demonstrate a database of well records; Halton Region Planning and Public Works Department staff will demon-

strate water conservation principles; and, water treatment companies will display systems that correct bacterial problems.

For more information about rural drinking water, please call the Halton Region Health Department at 905-825-6060, extension 7362. If you are calling long distance, please dial 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866). TTY 905-827-9833. Visit our website at www.region.halton.on.ca/health.

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Acton Minor Ball 2001 Baseball Season

3 Pitch Recreational House League \$60.00
We are trying to start a new league this year. It will be a recreational fun league for boys and girls 12 and up. It will be set up as a mixed 3 pitch league, like the adults play. We will have as many age divisions as we can. The season will be about 12 games long and it will be played for fun.

Tee-Ball \$60.00
1996-1997 boys and girls

Grasshopper \$60.00
1994-1995 boys and girls

Softball \$90.00
Tyke boys and girls 1993-1994
Atom girls 1991-1992
Atom boys 1991-1992
Squirt girls 1989-1990
Junior girls 1987-1990
Senior girls 1981-1986

Hardball \$90.00
Rookie 1992-1993
Mosquito 1990-1991
Peewee 1988-1989
Bantam 1986-1987
Midget 1984-1985
Juvenile 1983-1981

Registration At the Acton Arena
Thursday March 1 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Tuesday March 6 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Last year we introduced a bingo fee because we thought the bingo might not do well. This year we removed it because the bingo is doing fine.

We are requesting a \$30.00 pant deposit for Hardball and Softball, dated September 1, 2001. This cheque will be returned when the pants are turned back to the coach at the end of the season. If you have any pants from last year please bring them back with you to registration.

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