

Propose 2-man fire crews

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Some of the pressure on part-time (volunteer) fire-fighters in Halton Hills will be relieved if the Town proceeds with proposed plans to form two-man response teams.

The redeployment plan is included in a draft fire safety master plan that should be ready for Council early in the New Year.

Fire Chief Bob Meads said the plan is for existing fire prevention staff to work in teams of two with equipment to answer less serious calls, like medical calls and lower hazard fire calls, including car fires and garbage dumpster fires.

"This plan would take

some of the demand off our part-timers - in the case of a medical call, if the ambulance is called there would only be two people responding, so there's no reason for us to send any more people than the ambulance would," Meads said on Monday, adding they want to spread the two-man teams across the community so there are faster response times.

"Basically, we're changing the way we deliver both fire prevention service and emergency response services and trying to make the two of them mesh together better so the people that are out there in the field can do both," Meads said.

To ensure the department has the equipment to handle

the proposed new response plan, the Town treasurer suggests a new funding strategy in the 2002 capital budget so the fire department can purchase \$1.2-million of vehicles.

The proposed budget includes \$405,000 to purchase three rapid intervention/attack apparatus with a compressed air foam system to handle smaller blazes, as well as money for new pagers, a 11,000-litre tanker and aerial truck.

The treasurer recommends Council borrows \$973,000 for the fire department's equipment and take the balance from development charges.

Councillors began debate on the 10-year capital budget forecast yesterday (Wednesday).



CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Teachers and students celebrating the birth of Christ at Acton Baptist Church include Matthew White, Phil Moddle, Mardi White, Rebecca Sampson, Judy De Blauw. - Chuck Tysoe photo

Halton Hills endorses Town safety zones

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
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Community Safety Zones (CSZs) don't slow speeding drivers, but they do appear to reduce accidents, so Halton Hills Council has adopted a warrant and installation policy for future CSZs.

That endorsement comes even though Town staff question the validity of data showing a reduction in accidents, police feel mobile, not stationary, traffic tools are needed, and some of the increased fines end up being reduced in court.

Under provincial legislation, the Town is able to designate a section of a road where there are "extraordinary safety concerns" as a CSZ. Anyone convicted of a Highway Traffic Act offence in that area faces double the usual fine.

For the past three years, the Town has had two CSZ pilot projects, one on Mill Street West and one on

Delrex Boulevard in Georgetown.

While provincially, CSZs don't appear to be a factor in reducing traffic accidents, in the CSZ on Mill Street West, from Duby Road to Victoria Street, police report the number of collisions has dropped to three from six, after the CSZ was implemented early in 1999.

Comparisons of spot radar studies done by the Town in Mill Street West showed no change in driving habits after the CSZ was implemented - 85 per cent of motorists are driving at 15 k/hr over the posted 40k/hr limit and only 15 per cent of daily motorists are complying with the speed limit.

Three warrants must be met before Council would consider future CSZ designations including its location.

§ CSZs will only be allowed in five areas of special concern including roads near school zones, senior and community centres, playgrounds, parks, hospitals and medical centres and areas of high pedestrian use.

§ A CSZ can be implemented if there are more than one accident per the average daily traffic count over 36 months. A second risk warrant looks at areas where the

collision counts don't warrant a CSZ but still have unusually high "rules of the road" violations.

§ Other countermeasures must be tried and found unsuccessful before a CSZ is implemented. Those measures could include education, engineering changes such as warning signs. Pavement markings and increased police enforcement.

During recent discussions about the CSZs, Mayor Kathy Gastle suggested staff, not councillors, identify future CSZs.

"I can see this getting very political," Gastle said, asking staff why they recommend the existing two pilot projects remain in place, since they've already proven effective.

"Wouldn't it be worthwhile to move them to other areas so that we can get the same results?" Gastle asked.

The Town's traffic coordinator, Bob Butrym, said the two sites should be kept in place as "filler," as there are currently no other CSZ locations identified at this points.

Butrym said staff will work with the police and other groups, like school councils, to identify any candidate sites

LETTERS

Lunch with Santa

Dear Editor;

On Saturday, December 8, The Acton Parent and Child Resource Centre, located at the Acton Citizens' Band Hall, had a successful lunch with Santa. We were able to make it profitable thanks to our dedicated members and some wonderful community merchants.

We would like to thank Acton Home Hardware, Tim Hortons, Acton IGA, Royal Jug City, and Acton Photo for their generous donations. Our members and their families donated their valuable time and enthusiasm as well as many items for the lunch with Santa.

The Acton Parent and Child Resource Centre.

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Robin Collins B.HSc.(P.T.) will be relocating from the Health and Performance Centre at the U of G, and welcomes his past patients to visit our new location.

For more info on physiotherapy:



The staff of Bronze Salon wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



HOLIDAY HOURS:

Dec 24	10:00 - 3:00pm
Dec 25, 26	CLOSED
Dec 27, 28	1:00pm - 9:00pm
Dec 29	10:00 - 6:00pm
Dec 30	11:00 - 5:00pm
Dec 31	10:00 - 3:00pm
Jan 1	CLOSED
Jan 2,3,4	1:00pm - 9:00pm

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