

Recruitment topic for TV

Halton Region's Physician Recruitment Program will be the topic of discussion on "People Speak In a Place Called Halton," hosted by Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline and broadcast on Wednesday, March 3 on TVCogeco at 5:30 p.m. in Halton Hills and Milton.

Milton family physician Dr. Marion King, Councillor Jane Fogal and Halton Region's Physician Recruitment Coordinator Angela Sugden Praysner will be joining Chairman Savoline to discuss the challenges faced by family physicians practicing in underserved communities, the difficulty patients face in trying to find a doctor and the Region's ongoing efforts to attract new family physicians.

5.8% tax hike...

Continued from page 1

time..." Bonnette said, adding they did reduce the potential tax increase down from the initial 10 per cent starting point.

Bonnette also said he hopes to bring some changes to the budget process for next year to ensure councillors are more involved from the beginning.

Thanking staff for the many hours they spent on the budgets, Bonnette said some might have felt a "little battered and bruised" by the exercise, but he knows at the end that they can "hold hands and sing Kumbaya."

Georgetown Councillor Ron Chatten was the lone politician to vote against the operating budget and its 5.8 per cent tax increase, arguing they could have "very easily" been in the 4 per cent range.

"We have made no service cuts - we've added, and with a little effort we can shave down to just under five (per cent)," Chatten said, without suggesting any further cuts after his attempt to use part of a transportation reserve fund to pay for part of a new pavement management program was rejected by the budget committee.

Regional Wards One and Two Councillor Clark Somerville said he was "not happy" with the tax increase, but would support it.

"I don't think anybody can say that we haven't given, that we haven't gone over it very thoroughly...we have made cuts," Somerville said, adding the budget included

cuts recommended by the chief administrative officer and budget committee totalled two per cent.

Highlights of this year's \$16.9-million operating budget include:

A commitment to dedicate a 2 per cent tax increase, or \$320,000, in each of the next five years to pay for road improvements using an unexpected \$155,000 windfall in GST payments the Town will not have to make to Ottawa, to decrease the budget by 0.9 per cent the addition of \$72,900 for a pesticide reduction plan approval of \$115,000 for two additional firefighters implementation of a new pay-as-you go plan to finance capital projects instead of relying on debt.

Treasurer Ed DeSousa anticipates 5 to 7 per cent increases in the operating budgets in the next two years due to a number of factors including the 2 per cent tax increase for road improvement costs, increased rates for hydro and natural gas, and additional fire department staff.

The budget committee also approved the capital forecasts to 2006, when the current term of council ends. The committee moved accelerating a \$390,000 Georgetown road improvement project to next year's capital budget from the 2007 capital forecast.

The capital budget for this year is \$6.6-million, and the 2005 to 2013 capital forecast totals \$74.5-million.



REMOTE HOUND: Ollie, a four-year-old Jack Russell Terror, or Terrier, checks out a degment of Dogs With Jobs, and marvels that some dogs sit and don't yank at thier lead.- Frances Niblock photo

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Warn of mail theft...

Continued from page 1

an unlocked postal box or is exposed at your door during the day, it is an easy opportunity for a thief to steal your mail, and ultimately your identity. Identity theft occurs when a thief steals a person's personal identifying information and uses it to access

their bank accounts or fraudulently apply for credit in their name.

-It is recommended that you never put outbound mail into an unsecured mailbox, especially if it contains cheques or sensitive personal information.

-Always use a locking mailbox for incoming mail. Install a locking mailbox approved as secure by Canada Post.

-Remove your mail from your mailbox promptly if your mailbox is not secure and have the post office hold your mail if you will be out of town for an extended period of time.

-Have your cheques held for pick-up at your bank branch instead of having them mailed to your business or residence.

-Notify the police if you see anyone tampering with the mailboxes in your neighbourhood.

Halton Regional Police are asking anyone with information related to mail or identity theft to call police at 905-825-4777 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-2222 TIPS (8477).

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING DUPLICATE STREET NAMING & ADDRESSING CHANGES

The purpose of this notice is to advise of a Public Meeting to review and seek public input regarding the proposed re-naming of:

- Mary Street, Norval
- George Street, Acton
- Arthur Street, Norval
- Park Avenue, Acton
- Main Streets North and South Acton,

Wednesday, March 3, 2004
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 197
15 Wright Avenue, Halton Hills
(Acton) Ontario
6:30 p.m. Public Meeting

A copy of Report CL-2003-0033 may be obtained at the Acton Branch of the Halton Hills Public Library, or the Civic Centre (Clerk's Department). The report is also available in the Town's website at www.haltonhills.ca: select "Happenings: , "News and events" and "Duplicate Addressing Changes". Inquiries for delegations or further information can be directed to Debbie Edmonds, Manager of Licensing and Legislative Services at (905) 873-2601. Ext. 2332.

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