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News

Digest

Work on display

Illustrations by Glen Williams resident Peter Perko are included in an exhibition of children's book illustration at the Williams Mill Gallery through Thursday, November 30. Perko, who illustrated *The Gift* by Joseph Kertes, is the manager of advertising design at Humber College. The work of Karen Reczuch and Joanne Fitzgerald are also included in the exhibition. Some of the work is available for purchase. The Williams Mill Gallery is located at 515 Main St. in Glen Williams.

Metro's garbage?

A proposal to turn the Acton quarry into a landfill site has been sent to Metro Toronto, according to Walter Graziani, president of RSI. The company is one of nine which responded to a request from Metro for proposals from the private sector for disposal of solid waste. Companies will make a presentation in Toronto at an open meeting early in December, and a report will be compiled after the proposals have been evaluated. This report will be considered by Metro council Dec. 20.

UWC recognized

At the committee meeting Monday night committee recognized the contribution from the University Women's Club for the planting of 2,000 tree seedlings in Willow Park. The trees which were recently planted will be transplanted in parks throughout the town when they get bigger. The seedlings were presented to the town to celebrate Community Parks Week through the Elaine Burke Award Program.

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Tacky, tacky, tacky



Seven-year-old Kelly Haines (centre) got a little caught up in Tacky Tie Day at George Kennedy School on Thursday, as Steven Ackroyd, 8, and Ellen Ditschun, 7, adjusted her neck apparel for her. The kids enjoyed showing off some of the wildest ties they could find, and even designed a few for themselves.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Council set to phase-in MVA hike

By LISA TALLYN
 Staff writer

Halton Hills residents facing a tax increase due to market value assessment (MVA) will have the hit spread over two years councillors decided Monday night.

After a lengthy discussion councillors, in general committee, supported a two year phase-in plan after a three-year phase in was voted down. A proposal for a four year phase-in put forward by Councillor Rick Bonnette didn't even make it to a vote. The phase-in approach is not official until it is approved by council.

Committee directed Andy Koopmans, the treasurer to come back at their December 4 meeting with a report outlining a balanced plan and the impact of a two year phase-in.

A phase-in approach means that while those receiving tax increases don't pay the full increase in the first year, those receiving tax decreases also don't receive their full decrease in the first year.

Bonnette put forward the four-year plan because it was recommended by the Halton Citizens Committee on Tax Reform. He said if council ignores what the committee recommended it will be hard to get citizens to participate on committees in the future.

"The hard reality (of tax increases) hasn't hit the general public yet," said Councillor Norm Elliott who supported a phase-in to soften the blow.

"It will be a firestorm of absolute shock," said Elliott in reference to some homeowners reactions when they get their tax bills.

Councillor Chatten said phasing in the taxes over four years would result in people not knowing for sure what their taxes are.

As a result of MVA the amount of taxes paid by Halton Hills residents and businesses is going down by about 4.7 per cent over last year. A total of 59 per cent of taxpayers will see a decrease on their tax bills while 41 per cent will see an increase.

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