

Regional council calls for tax freeze when staff draw up 2001 budget

Staff should aim for a tax freeze in drawing up the 2001 budget, Halton Regional Council decided Wednesday.

Service improvements of up to two per cent, excluding policing costs, will also be considered in the upcoming tax budget, which should be approved in February.

But, Milton Mayor Gord Krantz wondered why the Halton Regional Police Services budget—which routinely eats up a fair portion of the tax bill and has come in at an increase for the past several years—isn't pushed to make the same commitment.

"I wonder why police would be excluded from trying to keep it at zero," he said at Wednesday's regional council meeting.

Police are caught between Halton's pressure to keep the budget down and costly mandated adequacy standards passed on by the province, explained Oakville Councillor Keith Bird, who also sits on the Police Services Board.

"We don't have the latitude to pick and choose or ignore those things," he said. "We understand the challenges very clearly, but we can't ignore the Police Services Act."

The annualization of previously-approved new officers will also have an impact on the upcoming budget, said Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale.

Historically, the lion's share of the police budget goes to salaries, and Halton's growth has triggered a hiring spurt to keep up.

Currently, the police portion of the tax

bill is separated from the region's share to show taxpayers where their money is being spent.

Mulvale asked the police costs be further broken down so it can be clearly shown what percentage of its budget is spent on fulfilling the provincially-imposed standards.

But taxpayers are mainly interested in the bottom line, said Burlington Mayor Rob MacIsaac.

"It's a little like saying the regional tax bill is at zero, except in the places where it isn't at zero," he said.

And to keep a lid on the total tax impact in spite of escalating policing costs, other requirements have been put on hold, said Oakville Councillor Stephen Sparling.

"There are other areas we need to spend money on and we haven't been able to do that," he said. "We have real needs where we need to invest."

But he has yet to hear a constituent complain about the cost of policing, added Sparling.

The region remains committed to keeping the tax burden as low as possible for residents, said Halton Chair Joyce Savoline.

"Zero is our goal," she said. "I know how diligent we are to keep it at zero."

And the police bottom line will be as low as possible while staying within the provincial guidelines, said Bird.

"If it comes in at less than zero we'd be delighted," he said. "But don't hold your breath."

—By Irene Gentle, special

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Georgetown Soccer Club

2001 Rep/Select Tryouts

The Georgetown Soccer Club would like to thank all the applicants for the Rep/Select coaching positions. At this point in time most Rep/Select coaches have been chosen for the 2001 outdoor season. All Rep age division teams will be having tryouts immediately (Oct. 30, Sept. 1 and Oct. 14/15 weekends). Players interested in trying out, should call the coach A.S.A.P. to receive the tryout schedule. (Boys and girls U8/U9 Select Tournament teams may be having tryouts at the discretion of the respective coach. If tryouts are not held this fall, they will be held in the spring of 2001). Congratulations to the coaches that were appointed and best of luck to all players trying out.

Georgetown Mustangs Rep Coaches

AGE DIVISION			PHONE
Boys U10	Coach	Craig Crossman	702-1232
Born 1991	Assistant Coach	John VanWissen	873-2629
Boys U11	Coach	Bain Thompson	873-7967
Born 1990	Assistant Coach	TBA	
Boys U12	Coach	Mario Vetro	450-7867
Born 1989	Assistant Coach	TBA	
Boys U14	Coach	Branko Vlacic	702-1435
Born 1987	Assistant Coach	TBA	
Boys U16	Coach	TBA	873-0348
Born 1985	Assistant Coach	TBA	
Girls U10	Coach	TBA	873-0348
Born 1991	Assistant Coach	TBA	
Girls U11	Coach	Chris Milne	877-0422
Born 1990	Assistant Coach	TBA	
Girls U12	Coach	TBA	873-0348
Born 1989	Assistant Coach	TBA	
Girls U13	Coach	TBA	873-0348
Born 1988	Assistant Coach	TBA	
Girls U14	Coach	Andrew Bigg	853-0456
Born 1987	Assistant Coach	Bert Zonneveld	873-9263
Girls U16	Coach	TBA	873-0348
Born 1985	Assistant Coach	Alan Jones	702-8092
Girls U18	Coach	John Bajic	877-2453
Born 1983	Assistant Coach	Frank Forbes	453-0361

Georgetown Eagles Select Tournament Team Coaches

Boys U8 (Born 1993)	Coach	Dom Vetro	873-4404
Boys U9 (Born 1992)	Coach	John Robertson	702-1993
Girls U8 (Born 1993)	Coach	Paul Smith	702-0329
Girls U9 (Born 1992)	Coach	Pat Piperni	873-7795

For coaching positions marked as TBA, please contact the GSC Club Head Coach for the tryout schedule: David Zonneveld (905) 873-0348