

# Town hints huge user fee hikes on the way

Residents and businesses using town services should brace themselves for potentially significant hikes in user fees.

The new Municipal Act tells municipalities which fees may be collected, how they are calculated and how to implement the new system.

What this means is the town has hired a consultant who, along with staff, are calculating all the direct and indirect costs of providing a service to the public, treasurer Ed DeSousa told Halton Hills council Monday.

DeSousa said, based on 2001 audited financial statements, the town collected \$5.2 million in user fees but spent \$20 million operating the programs and services.

In the meantime, the finance department will be bringing a report to council in December on proposed annual user fee hikes with a 5 per cent inflationary increase, starting in January 2003. A year later, by January 2004, the town will be using the calculated method.

Fees are currently calculated by a review of direct costs, a review of neighbouring municipality fees plus an infla-

tionary cost. As well, no capital component is calculated into the current charges.

The new calculation will take into consideration costs such as overhead (utilities, labour, supplies from every department involved in providing the service) and even a future capital cost (such as roof repairs) associated with the facilities being used.

But DeSousa said the final decision on what to charge ultimately rests with council.

As an example, he said, under the new calculations a recreation program currently charging \$3 per person to operate could potentially charge \$26. But council may decide that's too much and decide to charge only the direct cost, say \$7. In any case, the town must be able to justify their fees based on the cost recovery calculation and the fees can be equal or below the calculation.

"So all this is, is an exercise about



ED DeSOUSA

documenting costs?" asked Councillor Jane Fogal.

"Correct," answered DeSousa.

"What it will do," he said, "is provide council with the reality of what are the costs of actually providing some of our services."

"It seems to me if we charge full cost recovery on fees we wouldn't have to charge taxes," said Fogal.

"Yeah, we probably wouldn't have people using our services either," said Acton Councillor Clark Somerville.

"Yeah, we might as well just close up shop," said Fogal.

A report on the methodology that may be used in calculating the user fees under the Municipal Act will be brought to council sometime early in 2003. According to DeSousa, staff may recommend that council consider, at a minimum, that the direct costs of providing a service be recovered through a fee. As well a multi-year phase-in strategy may be implemented if council believes the costs will have too large of an impact in the first year.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

# See Santa Saturday

Santa Claus will make an early visit to town Saturday for the 72nd annual parade in his honour.

The popular event is organized by the Georgetown Lions Club and this year is set for 1:30 p.m.

"We hope the weather co-operates; snow is one thing, but rain is another," said parade chairman Al Watt, who said corporate sponsors help cover the costs of putting on the event.

Watt said this year's parade will be bigger than the 2001 event as more than 60 floats and eight bands are expected.

Bands will include Georgetown Pipe Band, Acton Citizens' Band, York Lions Steel Drum Band, St. John's Drum Corps, Arthur District Band and Banda Lira.

The floats will be decorated in keeping with the theme of this year's parade—Winter Wonderland.

Watt said, as in the past, letter carriers from Canada Post will be walking the parade route collecting letters to Santa from area children.

The parade starts at Georgetown Market Place (Guelph St. and Sinclair Ave.) and travels down Guelph St. to Mill St. to Charles St. to Park Ave. and wraps up at the fairgrounds.

## Police issue \$25,000 reward in search for man's killer

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She's hoping the reward will encourage people with any information, even if they believe it is inconsequential, to contact police.

Henttonen was found stabbed to death in his Rosetta St. apartment on Friday, May 17 by an employee of his scrap metal and pop machine repair business.

He was last seen alive when a taxicab driver dropped him off alone at his apartment just after midnight that morning following an evening at the Barber Towne Pub.

Henttonen's 1997 Chevrolet 1500 extended cab pickup truck was found abandoned Sunday, May 19 at Mountainview Rd. and Dominion Gardens Dr.

Police have put out pleas for information from the public about the murder and Hay said they received several calls after a Crime Stoppers re-enactment of the crime aired August 26.

"Our investigators are making steady progress in the investigation, and this reward process will undoubtedly help them in that regard," said Halton Police Chief Ean Algar. "Though not utilized in every investigation, rewards are another investigative aid at the disposal of the investigators. The reward offer presents us with an opportunity to reach out to those who may have some information about Mr. Henttonen's murder but have yet to contact police."

Police have distributed reward posters throughout the community.

Police ask anyone with information about the murder to call the Halton Regional Police Tip Line at 1-866 HALT TIP (1-866-425-8847). Police can also be contacted by e-mail at [henttonenhomicide@hrps.on.ca](mailto:henttonenhomicide@hrps.on.ca).

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



## Saying bye-bye to Acton High

Acton High School held its annual commencement exercise Friday night and several graduates (above) took the opportunity to wave goodbye to their high school years. (Left) Valedictorian Mark Bailey delivers the valedictory address to the 92 students who received their Ontario secondary school diplomas. Along with diplomas, a variety of bursaries, awards and scholarships were awarded. A total of 17 students were named Ontario scholars while another eight students earned their diplomas with honours.

Photos by Shawn McAlpine

**HALTON REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE**  
**MURDER INVESTIGATION**

**REWARD**  
**\$25,000**

On the evening of Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2002, the victim attended the Barber Towne Pub in Georgetown, Ontario. The victim was last seen when he was dropped off by a taxicab at his residence on Rosetta Street just after midnight on the morning of Friday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002, where he was later found stabbed to death.

The victim's motor vehicle was later located in the area of Dominion Gardens Drive and Mountainview Road in Georgetown, Ontario. It was a 1997 Chevrolet 1500 extended cab pickup truck (green). Licence plate 371 9KW.

I am authorized on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Halton, Police Services Board, to offer a reward of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) for information leading to the arrest and conviction of person(s) on the charge of murder in this case. The reward payable in Canadian funds, expires on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003. The reward will be shared proportionally amongst the persons supplying the information at the conclusion of the trial and any appeals therefrom. Information received through anonymous means does not qualify for payment from this reward. The reward is separate and apart from Crime Stoppers. Claims for this award will only be recognized when made in writing prior to the expiry date.

Should you have information pertaining to this investigation please contact:  
Halton Regional Police Service, Major Crime Bureau  
TIP LINE: 1-866-425-8847 (HALT TIP)  
Email: [henttonenhomicide@hrps.on.ca](mailto:henttonenhomicide@hrps.on.ca)  
EAN G. ALGAR, CHIEF OF POLICE

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