

OMERS changes will hurt taxpayers

I want to bring to your attention something that your council has been trying to get the Province to listen to.

The issue is the proposed legislative changes to the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) pension plan. On November 1, 2005, council passed a resolution asking the Province to reconsider the legislative changes to the OMERS pension plan that would allow for creation of a new governance structure and expensive supplementary plans. The supplementary plans are additional stand-alone local municipal plans, separate from the existing basic plan for all employees.

The potential impact to the Town of Halton Hills has been estimated at \$285,000 or 1.5 per cent tax rate increase or \$15 on the average home.

These are preliminary, as the final costs will not be known until the supplementary plans are actually implemented. Your council has asked the Province to listen to taxpayers' concerns and not enhance the existing pension plan with these supplementary plans, but our voices have not been heard.

The legislation that would enact these changes has already received second reading and is on its way to being passed.

I would encourage you to contact Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty (Dalton.McGuinty@premier.gov.on.ca), Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing John Gerretsen (416-585-7000) or your local MPP Ted Chudleigh (905-878-1729) to express your concerns that the legislation not be passed.

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Rick Bonnette

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After a snowfall, be sure to clear the ice and snow from the sidewalk in front of your home. Many in our community use the sidewalks for commuting, or for a nice walk as a form of healthy exercise. Think of our seniors. So please, clear your sidewalk. It is the right thing to do.

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Congratulations to the Georgetown Lions Club which is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2006.

The Lions Club has served our community in many ways over this period of time. Annual Santa Claus Parade, Walk for Guide Dogs, Citizen of the Year Award, and serving our youth are just a few of the many initiatives of this worthy organization.

On behalf of Council, thank you for your many contributions adding to the quality of life in our town.

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Keeping it real! I can be reached by telephone at 905-873-2601, ext. 2342, or by e-mail at mayor@haltonhills.ca

—Rick Bonnette is the mayor of Halton Hills



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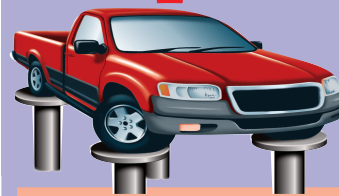
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