

THE INDEPENDENT

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Halton Place gears up for annual show
Page S/L1



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Page 5



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INSIDE



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Special insert



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Page 7

Editorial	6
Sports	SL1-8
Calendar	10
Chris Borak	17
Classifieds	20-23

WEDNESDAY...

Local resident Dave Harley's attempt to keep the downtown median issue alive didn't get far with Town council. See Wednesday's edition for details.

For breaking news go to: www.independentfreepress.com



Lost in the Mungle Jungle

Demon slayers Madam Hernandez (Erin Troughton, 9) and Dr. Cortez (Jacqueline Johnson, 10) peeked through the bushes to get a closer look at the tribes in the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department Summer Musical Theatre Camp's production of *Mungle Jungle* at John Elliott Theatre. The play told a story of explorers trying to find lost artifacts, in a race between the good and evil explorers.

Photo by Ted Brown

Preliminary tax hike pegged at \$107 per homeowner

CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

If nothing changes in the next five months—and it likely will—Halton Hills residents can look forward to an average \$107 increase on their 2007 tax bills.

Halton Hills budget committee—which includes all members of council—gave staff the go-ahead at a Wednesday meeting to begin preparing the 2007 operating and capital budgets.

Direction was given to staff to prepare for January deliberations, a \$22.3 million budget—a 3.1 per cent increase over this year's budget, plus 2 per cent dedicated to the pavement management program, plus another 1.3 per cent for the hiring of full-time firefighters.

This 6.4 per cent increase translates to a \$60 increase of taxes for the average home assessed at \$300,000.

Combined with Halton Region and school board taxes, the overall increase on tax bills is 3.6 per cent or \$107 (\$36 per \$100,000 of assessment value). Region taxes are going up \$47 (again, if nothing changes between now and final approval). School taxes remain unchanged.

Total taxes paid on a home assessed at \$300,000 will be \$3,099 (\$990 for the Town, \$1,317 for the Region and \$792 for education).

Director of Finance Ed DeSousa in his presentation to the budget committee said a long list of factors can be attributed to the increases including the potential hiring of the four firefighters (\$290,000), increase in employee benefits, CPP/EI

See HOMEOWNERS, pg. 3

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