Local councillors lead the fight to have Region cap pooling costs

Continued from pg. 1

He noted Halton has sent letters and resolutions to the Province already to voice its displeasure with the pooling system, but "they haven't listened."

Both York and Peel regions have already frozen their pooling payments, and Burlington Mayor Cam Jackson noted there's "strength in numbers."

Halton Hills Councillor Jane Fogal said even by capping the payment, the Region is still sending in a lot of money for pooling.

"Maybe we should go right to the formula we think is fair," she suggested.

Fellow Halton Hills Councillor Clark Somerville, who brought the pooling motion forward originally, urged his fellow councillors to support the resolution.

He pointed out that with a provincial election coming, it's important to bring the issue up now.

In the end, the motion carried 19-2, with only Craven and Carol D'Amelio voting against it.

Halton's pooling costs have steadily risen since 2003, going from about $34 million then to the current estimated $41 million—- a figure that's also contained in the 2007 budget.

In fact, since pooling started in 1998, the Region has contributed almost $325 million for Toronto's social services.

The approved 2.5 per cent tax increase means a typical household will pay $1,258 in Halton taxes next year. Included in that figure is $406 for police services, $278 for social and community services, $182 for GTA pooling, $145 for planning and transportation and $114 for waste management.

And on the water and wastewater side, the average household will spend about $675 for the services in 2007, based on an annual consumption of 300 cubic metres.

Some of the major expenses in the budget include $12 million for a wastewater main on Upper Middle Road from Bronte Road to west of Third Line, $10.6 million to widen Trafalgar Road from Britannia Road to south of Hwy. 401 and $8 million to construct James Snow Parkway from Steeles Avenue to Boston Church Road.

For more information on the 2007 budget visit www.halton.ca.

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More design improvements for active and creative living at The Gallery

Georgetown - In response to requests from purchasers, the French balconies at The Gallery are now bigger and better, and have been extended to 3.5 feet! You can now sit on your balcony and enjoy the natural 18 acre parkland setting. Other design improvements include space saving bi-fold doors for closets, heated parking garage ramps, plumbing rough-ins for laundry sinks plus separate hard water drinking taps in kitchens.

The Gallery will now feature an art studio/classroom in the northeast corner with maximum glazing to enjoy ravine views. Dr. Anand, purchaser and soon to be Artist in Residence is ready to teach Art Classes to anyone interested. He wants people to feel young by keeping their mind and body active and creative. "Many people have talents and purposes which are unexpressed, and undiscovered! Light from the North is always the best for painting, designating this studio space is great news!" said Dr. Anand.

Servicing and construction of Halton Hills Drive is well underway. A good selection of suites remain up to 1,354 sq. ft. Don't miss out – now is the time for smart retirement planning today for tomorrow!

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