

THE INDEPENDENT

& FREE PRESS

Const. Chris Borak:
Use your seat-belts
Page 14



Recipe of the week:
Rosemary potatoes
Page 22



50 cents (+GST)

Friday, February 2, 2007

48 Pages

Voted Ontario's best newspaper

INSIDE



Little Theatre
rehearses
for a murder

Page 12



Free throw
fun at
St. Brigid

Page 20

Editorial	6
Ted Brown	7
Sports	20, 21
Calendar	23, 24
Classifieds	27-29

WEDNESDAY...

For a comprehensive look to see where your Town tax dollars will go this year see Wednesday's *Independent & Free Press*.

For breaking news go to:
www.independentfreepress.com

Superior is, well, superior among local businesses



Superior Glove president Tony Geng (left) and his brother vice-president Joe Geng show off some of the firm's products. The longtime Acton company was named the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year. For a complete list of winners of this year's Business Achievement Awards see pages 9, 11.

Photo by Ted Brown

Town tax hike of \$50 approved

CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

Attempts to lower the 2007 Town tax increase failed to fly with the majority of the Halton Hills budget committee at the final budget debate meeting on Tuesday night.

These included lowering the 2 per cent dedicated tax for the pavement management program by half a percentage point, hiring only two firefighters instead of four, and giving taxpayers a tax credit from the savings in the winter control budget.

Instead, budget committee (all members of council) accepted staff-recommended budget

cuts of \$61,600 and approved the 2007 operating budget of \$22,327,200—a 5.4 per cent increase over last year's budget. It includes a 2.1 per cent increase over the base budget, 2 per cent dedicated solely to the pavement management plan, and 1.3 per cent for the hiring of four full-time firefighters. Confirmation is expected at Monday's (Feb. 5) council meeting.

This means town taxes will go up by \$50 to \$980 for the average homeowner with a home assessed at \$300,000 in 2007. Combined with Halton Region taxes, which have already been approved, and education taxes, which remain at the 2006 level, the tax increase for the average Halton Hills taxpayer is 2.7 per cent (\$82)

for a total of \$3,074.

It was Mayor Rick Bonnette who brought forward the suggestion to use 0.5 per cent of the 2 per cent dedicated tax for the pavement management program to reduce the budget by \$100,000 (from a 5.6 per cent tax increase to 5.2 per cent).

The Town plans to levy \$400,000 from taxpayers this year for this program, and the money collected goes towards resurfacing urban roads. Work alternates between communities and this year, primarily Ward 4 streets get the special treatment.

See TOWN, pg. 3

Bad Credit is No Problem!
"CAR LOANS FOR YOU"

CALL OUR GEORGETOWN OFFICE
THIS WEEK'S EXAMPLE

OF SPECIALS

- 2000 Ford Taurus
- 2000 Honda Accord
- 2002 Chrysler 300M
- 2003 Oldsmobile Alero
- 2004 Chevy Cavalier
- Over 25 Mini Vans!

WE FINANCE YOUR FUTURE NOT YOUR PAST

CALL THE GEORGETOWN HEADQUARTERS 1-866-0697 or 905-877-7818

GEORGETOWN KIA

Georgetown Volkswagen

The 2007 City Golf and the 2007 City Jetta

\$14,900 to start* \$16,700 to start*

203 Guelph Street
905.877.5285
georgetownvw.com

*MSRP of base City Golf/City Jetta is \$14,900/\$16,700 with 5-speed manual transmission. MSRP of City Golf/City Jetta model shown is \$16,500/\$18,300, including optional Luxury Package (power sliding glass sunroof with sunshade and 15" alloy wheels at \$1,600). Prices exclude freight (\$715), PDI (\$495), options, taxes, license, administration fees and insurance. See Georgetown Volkswagen for complete details and a heck of a lot of fun.

APPLE Auto Glass®

We handle all insurance work.

•Truck Accessories •Upholstery
•Heavy Equipment Glass •Window Tinting

354 Guelph Street, Georgetown
(905) 873-1655