



WEST 7 NIGHT CLUB
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**COMING IN MAY...TUES. NIGHTS ...
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 April 25th LINE DANCING with Instructors	5	6 * LIVE DJ \$5.00 COVER	
Wednesday 6 p.m. - close						
	8	9	10	11 April 26th DANCE PARTY	12	13 * LIVE DJ
Thursday 7 p.m. - close						
	16	17	18 April 27th FRIDAY LIVE WITH RECORDING ARTIST JULIAN AUSTIN	19	20 LADIES' NIGHT No Cover before 10 p.m. Ladies Only	
Friday 7 p.m. - close						
	22	23	24 April 28th COUNTRY LINE DANCING with SAM COOK	25	26 * DJ JVICY JAY @ 1 A.M.	
Saturday 7 p.m. - close						
	29	30	31 till 1 a.m. switching to DANCE PARTY to close Giveaways & Prize Packs ALL NIGHT LONG!			

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Savings from GTA pooling returned to municipalities

MELANIE HENNESSEY
Special to The IFP

Halton's four municipalities just got a little richer now that regional council has decided to give each a portion of the \$6.1 million it's saving on GTA pooling this year.

In a narrow 11-9 vote last week, council approved providing each municipality with its proportionate share of the savings for local infrastructure needs by April 30. This equates to \$614,270 for Halton Hills, \$2.6 million for Oakville, \$2.1 million for Burlington, and \$738,100 for Milton.

The motion also says that the municipalities have the option of returning the funds to the Region for its transportation projects, which is how staff originally recommended it be spent.

The extra money is a result of the provincial government's recent decision to phase out GTA pooling—the system that Halton and other local regions contributed to help Toronto pay for its social service costs. Pooling has cost Halton about \$41 million each year, or around \$180 for the average taxpayer.

Regional council discussed whether or not the funds should be returned to residents before it made its decision, with Burlington Councillor Jack Dennison once again voicing his support for the notion.

"I think the \$6.1 million should go back to the taxpayer," he emphasized.

Failing that, he said he would support the motion because it moves the money closer to the taxpayer.

Acting Commissioner of Corporate Services Mark Scinocca told council that giving the money back would equate to a \$27 reduction in taxes for the average household based on a \$300,000 assessment.

Milton Councillor Colin Best noted he conducted a poll in his area and found that 73 per

cent of his constituents favoured using the money for a tax cut.

But, Oakville Councillor Allan Elgar contended that taxpayers want to see the money sent back to the four municipalities.

The fact municipal councils will have the option to return the funds for regional transportation projects was highlighted by Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette.

"This allows us flexibility," he noted. "I think this is a good resolution."

Bonnette also said he thinks giving the money back through taxes would defeat the purpose of



RICK BONNETTE

the Fairness for Halton campaign, which was jointly launched by the local municipalities to ask the Province for changes—such as to the GTA pooling requirements—that would in turn give Halton the needed funds to address infrastructure deficits.

Halton Hills Councillor Jane Fogal shared similar sentiments, explaining that making tax cuts would tell the Province Halton does have enough money for infrastructure.

She and Milton Mayor Gord Krantz voiced their support for the motion crafted during last week's planning and public works committee that asked for the local municipalities to simply be consulted with on the option of receiving pooling funds versus using the money for regional projects.

Burlington Mayor Cam Jackson said he thinks the four municipalities will make the best decisions on where to invest the money.

Local regional representatives were divided on the motion to send the pooling savings to each local municipality with Bonnette supporting the plan while Fogal and Wards 1&2 Councillor Clark Somerville voted against the motion.

Under the Province's plan, pooling will be reduced by one-sixth of its 2004 levels each year until the program is completely eliminated by 2013.

Woodworking firm buys Curwood site

A new manufacturing company has purchased the former Curwood Packaging building on Armstrong Ave. and is expected to begin moving in this month.

ISPA Woodworking Ltd., a custom manufacturer of interior retail store fixtures, is relocating to Georgetown from its existing locations in Mississauga.

"I am very pleased to welcome ISPA to Halton Hills," said Mayor Rick Bonnette. "They will find that the 114 Armstrong Ave. location is very effective for their business."

In particular we are excited that a major manufacturer will be reusing this large and well maintained building."

Bonnette said 75 employees will be relocated to the Georgetown building from the Mississauga location, and the company will also be hiring in Halton Hills.

"This positive reuse of the building by ISPA brings a very favourable outcome to the question of the future of the plant."

Last March Curwood closed, putting all 137 employees out of work.

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