



... Lend Me Your Ears

By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

LIVING WITH A LOSS OF HEARING

Some voices are easier to understand than others. The clearly speaking person produces words that are more precisely formed, or articulated. The rate of speed of words spoken also affects our ability to understand.

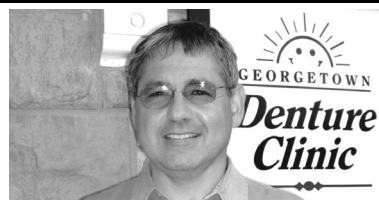
If one can hear the speaker as he/she is talking, this makes it easier to understand. The environment also has an affect on speech understanding — bare walls and floors in a room causes sound to "bounce" around. Keep in mind that it is much easier to converse in a quiet, carpeted room.

Make sure that there is good lighting and try to maintain a speaking distance of less than nine feet. You'll be pleasantly surprised at how much easier conversation is.

Hearing loss can dampen enjoyment of movies, music, church services, watching TV, eating out and talking on the telephone. Even a mild hearing loss can reduce your quality of life.

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Library is Town's next big project, Fogal promises

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Wards 3&4 Regional Councillor Jane Fogal. "It's primarily linked to the water allocation and there's some hope on the horizon that we will get some more water available to continue with some building that will bring more development charges and assessment that will assist us in funding the library. We're not quite there yet."

To pay for everything (except LEED), the Town will need to spend \$6.9 million from development charges (DCs) and \$5 million from the Major Capital Project Reserve Fund. But the Town won't have \$4.3 million of the DCs until the new residential growth comes (new industrial DCs cannot be used for libraries), so interim financing will have to come from the Special Infrastructure Levy that was put on property tax bills for five years, starting this year.

At the August 11 budget committee meeting, the revised capital and operating costs will be presented in conjunction with the initial 2009/2010 operating and capital budgets, so

that council has a better idea of the financial implications of whatever they decide.

For example, using the Special Infrastructure Levy for the library, said DeSousa, means it will be unavailable for use on other projects such as roads, bridges and repairs and maintenance of facilities. Similarly, use of Recreation DCs (\$800,000) for the John Elliott Theatre portion of the project means those DCs will be unavailable for other recreation capital projects.

That worried Ward 1 Councillor Mike O'Leary.

"I can't see us in essence putting all of our eggs in one basket and not having any money for roads and bridges, and emergency repairs."

Wards 1&2 Regional Councillor Clark Somerville suggested that consideration be given to a fundraising component. He said he thought this was a project that many in the community would get behind.

Ward 4 Councillor Bob Inglis, who is a member of the Halton Hills Public Library Board, said the board is already having preliminary discussions on fundraising.

Library rebuild may not get LEED certification

CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

Halton Hills's planned renovation and expansion of the Cultural Centre and Library will in all likelihood become a "green" building, but it won't get the LEED stamp of approval that the two new fire stations are getting.

In an update about the \$12.5 million project presented to Halton Hills council at a June meeting, obtaining a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification would cost another \$400,000.

A direction on whether to spend the extra money to get the environmental badge will likely be made when confirmed costs about the project is presented at the August 11 budget committee meeting.

Architect John Knox said since this project involves a major renovation of a building that's already there (part of which is more than 100 years old), "it's impossible at this point of any project to guarantee that you will achieve that level; you can only try for it."

"We have not done a major restoration to date ... but it's an effort well worth making," Knox said.

"We're looking at a \$400,000 expenditure and without a guarantee that you're going to get what you're trying to achieve, I would call that a bad expense," said Ward 2 Councillor Bryan Lewis.

"Would it be possible not to go for certification but use some LEED standards," asked Wards 1&2 Councillor Clark Somerville.

"That's a given that's going to happen in any case," said Knox. LEED is simply a scoring system and a good portion of the additional cost is fees and documentation for the certification.

"Green is the way to go; it's a sensible common sense approach to building."

He pointed to such things as low maintenance landscaping, natural light, compact fluorescent lights, and selection of roofing, window and insulation materials. They don't add to the cost but still contribute to an environmentally sound building.

Money is tight said Wards 3&4 Regional Councillor Jane Fogal.

"We're making a commitment to the LEED standard on the fire halls, and I am less concerned now in making a statement to the public that we're being environmentally correct. I just want to build a building that does take into account all the environmental features that we can economically build into it."



Construction of the proposed expansion and renovation of the Halton Hills Cultural Centre and Public Library may start as early as next year.

Mayor Rick Bonnette agreed. "We have to use common sense. This is a reno job. It's not like the fire halls, which were brand new buildings. ... We're not a wealthy municipality and we have to use common sense and good judgment," he said.

"The Library Board is quite confident with the architect that we've chosen (Knox) that we're going to get the best building that we can get energy wise and design wise that will incorporate all the environmental features that we can, recognizing that we're working with an over 100-year old shell," said Ward 3 Councillor Moya Johnson, who is also on the Library Board.

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