

Parking ticket system goes hi-tech

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Staff Writer

It might be a little tougher to fight a parking ticket in Halton Hills—the Town has moved to an automated parking ticket system.

It includes a one-piece handheld computer with Windows applications, a keypad, built-in printer and camera, and can be integrated into the Town's parking ticket databases and processors. It will spit out weatherproof, tear-proof thermal paper-plastic tickets. At the end of the day, the officer downloads all the information recorded to the Town's server.

Fully integrated with the Town's ticket software and database, it enables the parking enforcement

officer to identify first-time offenders or shows the history of the vehicle plate, such as previous warnings, tickets or unpaid tickets. A list of stolen vehicles can be inputted that will flag the parking officer's attention.

Dispute over time in three-hour parking zones will be eliminated as the device will now stamp the time of first entry and prompt the officer when to return. If the vehicle is still there, the timed stamp of both visits are on the ticket.

This timing system will also aid the parking officer to track derelict or abandoned vehicles.

The device's built-in camera can store four photos/tickets to reduce the sole reliance on the officer's testimony if the driver goes to

court.

The parking officer can also log graffiti, damaged or worn traffic signs, worn pavement markings, etc. onto the device, which can then be forwarded to Public Works for further action.

During the 2009 budget discussions, the Clerk's Department will present a report on additional technologies that could be added to the ticket. These include "real-time communication" to provide instantaneous download instead of end-of-the-day. Other features that could be added: keeping track of vehicles in the Town's paid permit spaces and a vehicle relocation feature that would allow citizens to go on-line to find out where their car has been towed.

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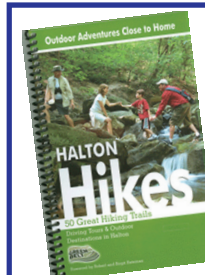
Get into it! Click on **Challenges** & get moving! Actively challenge yourself, & your family, friends & co-workers too!

Share it! Get inspired & inspire others. Share your stories & photos on the website... & have fun!

This week's challenge!

hikeit

Town of Halton Hills has a network of trails ready for you to hike! Hiking is walking on the wild side – a little more rugged, a little more challenging, a little more natural! Love birds? Bring your binoculars. Love bugs? Bring your magnifying glass. Check out the brand new trail opening this week at Dawson and Mountainview. Be sure to share your outdoor adventure stories and photos online!



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