

ACTON FREE PRESS



Globe presents
Singin' in the Rain

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Norval hosts
Montgomery Christmas

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52 cents (+GST) Vol. 130 No. 36 Wednesday, November 21, 2007 52 Pages Circulation 21,220 Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper

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earn weekend
split

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Guide special
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FRIDAY...

Local mixed martial artist Stjepan (Steve) Vujnovic puts his 4-0 won-loss record on the line Saturday in Edmonton. For preview see Friday's *Independent & Free Press*.

For breaking news go to:
www.independentfreepress.com



Everybody loves a parade

As Santa arrived in town Saturday afternoon, Halton Hills Fire Protection and Prevention Services mascot Sparky (Jim English) handed out candies to kids awaiting the jolly old elf, along with some help from his little dalmatian sidekick Helina Fournier. For more photos of Santa's arrival in town, turn to the Holiday Gift Guide inside.

Photo by Donavon Gaudette

Capital budget passes first hurdle

LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

The demolition of Dick Licata Pool and the rehabilitation of the bridge on Main St. in Glen Williams are just two items on a long list of 2008 capital projects approved by the Town's budget committee Monday night.

After going through the budget item by item, committee (all council members and the mayor) approved a \$10.8 million capital budget and \$111.5 million 2009 to 2017 capital forecast, both of which were up only slightly from the totals originally recommended by Town Finance Director Ed DeSousa at the beginning of the evening.

DeSousa was calling for a \$9.97 million capital budget and a \$111 million capital forecast.

The key reasons for the increases that were approved by committee were decisions to move forward with three items from Council's

Strategic Plan, including the Town's Green Plan at a cost of \$75,000, and 401/407 Corridor Expansion study at an overall cost of \$400,000. Committee also gave the green light to refurbishing and replacing equipment at the Georgetown Library and the Cultural Centre Gallery at a total cost of \$175,000.

Seven projects represent 54 per cent of the 2008 capital budget.

- They are:
- \$1.65 million, pavement managed on various roads in Acton including Kingham Rd., Storey Ave., Church St. and Acton Blvd.
 - \$950,000, Glen bridge rehabilitation
 - \$630,000, Dominion Gardens phase 2
 - \$618,000, Dominion Gardens splash pad
 - \$605,000, 10 Sideroad boulevard and streetlights
 - \$561,000, Acton Community Sports Park, phase 2
 - \$391,000, public works equipment replacement

One of the capital items that generated some lengthy discussion around the council table was \$35,000 to install new sliding automatic doors in Acton Arena as part of the Town's 2007 Municipal Accessibility Plan.

Councillor Clark Somerville questioned why they should have to pay \$35,000 for accessibility items in a building that when it went up only 10 years ago had accessibility features built into it.

"With it being done in the late '90s I would have thought we had a lot of these things put in," said Somerville.

He asked what the annual operating costs would be for sliding doors.

Paul Stover, the Town's Manager of Facilities, didn't have those costs readily available, but said there would be a maintenance contract. He also said the doors in the arena "need attention" and some need to be replaced.

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