



HARMONICA HARMONY: The "Harmoni Chords" (harmonica-playing seniors from Oakville) helped make the welcome back dinner at the Seniors' Centre more enjoyable. They played many favourite songs. A few danced in the aisles. — Julie Conroy photo

No more hidden costs in Town's capital budget

By Frances Niblock

The Town's new charge-back accounting system will show taxpayers the "hidden" costs in capital projects and provide the budget committee with the opportunity to cut taxes this year, but it could also mean future service cuts and tax increases.

In August, the budget committee said staff's projected 6.4 per cent tax increase was too high, and the charge-back proposal is staff's preferred option to reduce the potential increase.

morning.

Fifteen Happy Hikers took off to hike the Hockley Valley on Friday morning. I am sure the trees would have been beautiful and just changing colour by then, after the few cold nights we have had.

The Centre will be closed on Monday, October 9 for Thanksgiving.

The 50/50 draw this week was won by Alice Clarke who works very hard making sure there is always someone at the desk at the Seniors Centre. Congratulations Alice. Don't spend

\$200,000 represents a one per cent reduction in the 2007 operating budget.

When Ward Two Councillor Bryan Lewis asked if taxpayers would benefit from the charge-back system, CAO Dennis Perlin interjected.

"The taxpayer is already paying that three per cent. It's hidden, it's hidden in the operating budget... what we're trying to start is attributing the proper costs of every project to that project and right now we hide part of that in the operating budget," he said.

Mayor Rick Bonnette, who called the report a "good news" story, said he is not troubled that they will be dealing with "real costs."

As to the potential budget increase, Bonnette said nothing is etched in stone and the budget committee will meet in January and look at all of the challenges.

Three per cent of annual eligible capital costs, or \$200,000, will be charged back from the capital to the operating budget each year, and while the system will provide more accuracy and accountability, it leaves less money for the actual construction of projects such as playgrounds, roads, bridges and parks. The



ACTON SENIORS' RECREATION CENTRE

BY JULIE CONROY

We have had 25 new members join the Centre during the past two weeks, which is great, and we know they will all find something of interest to enjoy while visiting.

Margaret Anderson is still busy trying to fill in the last few gaps before the Rock-a-Thon this weekend. You will see many seniors, and other well know local personalities rocking the hours away at Sobeys both Friday and Saturday. I will be doing my stint on Saturday afternoon until close. We have lots of lovely prizes and the tickets will be drawn at the end. I hope you have a ticket, and who knows you may receive a gift.

Sobeys have been very generous with time, space, encouragement and prizes. Many other businesses have sponsored time spots during the 36 hours thanks to the hard work of Fern Jory, who seems to have spent the last two weeks knocking on business doors and persuading them to sponsor the Seniors Centre in one way or another.

There was an informative talk at the Centre on Tuesday, September 19 about recognizing the first signs of breast cancer, a very important topic. Margaret-Anne Cranfield a volunteer with the Burlington Breast Cancer Support Services was here. She recommends that if you see a doctor with a concern, you write down any questions, plus mark anything you are concerned about. She said once you are in the doctor's office its easy to get a little confused, and forget the most important thing you meant

to mention. On a more positive note, she says the average survival rate for breast cancer over a five year period is now 80%, a great improvement over past years.

Frances Hogenbirk had the only mooner at the bid euchre last Thursday. The ladies that play every Thursday afternoon would love to see more people playing.

The evening euchre was well attended and Eileen Wedge had the lone hands, Don Milton was high man, Mae Milton — high lady (keeping it in the family), Henry Wedge had 2nd man, and Lydia Dyball 2nd lady, with Frances Hogenbirk winning the booby prize. Donna said it was nice to see some new faces playing, and we hope to see more next time.

There were lots of prize winners at the welcome back dinner. Margaret MacLellan won the 50/50, and Donna Rowley, Elma Braida, Sylvia Birks, Marion Pascoe, Cleo Lemieux, Ruth Burke and Betty Green were all happy to take home prizes which included passes to Acton Fall Fair.

One of the big blue Great Canadian coaches took a full load of Acton and Georgetown Seniors to the Niagara Casino last Thursday. It was a beautiful day, and a few even managed to take a break from the Casino and enjoy a walk by the falls. The gardens there were impressive as usual.

The Men in Motion enjoyed a visit to Sleeman's Brewery in Guelph on September 19 with a tour of the production lines

from start to finish. Every question about the process was answered by a cheerful, knowledgeable young woman who gave the men an opportunity to sample five different varieties of beer. She also enlightened them on the history of the business from its local beginnings in the mid 19th century to its present international expansion.

Marj Allan and her committee are always open to ideas for interesting speakers, or demonstrations at the Centre. If you have an idea for something a little different just put a note in her folder in the office. The latest interest group to be starting up soon is a book club. The first meeting will be on October 3 at 2p.m. The sign-up sheet is at the front desk.

It was nice to see some of the new members winning at bingo this Friday. This might inspire them to come again next week. The share-the-wealth this Friday was \$72. Congratulations to Maxine Burton.

There were 20 people interested in learning a little more about their digital cameras on Tuesday night. Hopefully they all learned something to make their pictures more professional. Victor is certainly very knowledgeable about the technicalities of the cameras.

There will be a fashion show featuring Geri Fashions on Tuesday, October 10. The show featuring some of our members as models will start at 2p.m. The clothing, (both ladies and mens) will be on display for you to look at, or try on, earlier in the



The last Trunk Sale of the season is Saturday, September 30

In attendance is
**The Robert Little
Everybody Dance Club**

at 9:30am

(Marie Burland, director)

The Acton Citizens' Band
at 10:00am (with Dr. George Elliot, conductor)

The Trunk Sale Committee, George, Jake, Ted and Angela would like to thank everybody for their patronage and the co-operation of the Town of Halton Hills and the olde Hide House.

