



Activan service during holiday

The Halton Hills Activan will take bookings each day during the Christmas holiday season this year, the first time it has offered the service since its inception in 1981. The Program provides public transportation for people with disabilities, and seniors, for a regular fare of \$2.00 in each direction.

"The Town's Accessibility Advisory Committee quite rightly brought to our attention the fact that the holiday season is a time for sharing with friends and family, but with a hiatus on ActiVan operations between Christmas and New Year's many disabled persons and seniors in the community were unable

to use the means of transportation they have come to rely on the rest of the year," said Moya Johnson, Ward 3 Councillor and Chair of the Accessibility Committee.

Transit Coordination Don Clarkson says, "We've made arrangements with an outside contractor to provide service each day between December 25 and January 1, including the statutory holidays of Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. Our ActiVan booking line will remain open during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Continued on Page 3

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Region tax only up by 1.3%



Acton Citizens' Band never gets enough recognition for its participation in events. See editorial Page 6



Eden Mills jazz artist released his eighth album recently. Our reporter Rebecca Rign interviews him on Page 10



MacKenzie Smith Bennett PS Primary and Junior Choir performed recently. See pic on Page 3



ALL LIT UP: Home aglow with lights in The New Tanner's circulation area such as this one on Turtle Lake Drive have been delighting the Christmas light tours. Most of them will still be burning over the New Year so it's not too late for a light tour. - Tracey Gardner photo

But waste water bill up 6.5%

Halton Region taxpayers face a combined property tax increase of 1.3 per cent in 2008 which translates into \$16.54 hike for a typical Halton home assessed at \$300,000.

Regional Council approved the budget and business plan at its meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 19. The budget includes a 5.3 per cent increase for police services and a property tax reduction of 0.6 per cent for regional programs and services.

A typical Halton household with a current value assessment (cva) of \$300,000, the property tax impact reduces Regional services by \$5.00 with an increase of \$21.54 for police services, a combined increase of \$16.54, or \$5.52 per \$100,000 of cva.

Although the Halton budget increased by only 1.3 per cent, water and waste water services require an increase of 6.5 per cent. A typical household's annual combined water and waste water bill will increase by about \$43.98 assuming water consumption of 200 m³/year. The Region says the increase "reflects growth pressures, legislative compliance and business enhancements."

The 2008 Budget addresses infrastructure and service requirements outlined in the Fairness for Halton campaign and the priorities in Halton Region's 2007-2010 Strategic

Continued on Page 3

Looking back at 2007

January

- Plans begin for a new medical centre and improvements to the old one in Acton, making the town more attractive to family practitioners.
- The Acton Peewee Tanners took the Silver Stick championship with 4 victories in Midland.
- Halton's independent Member of Parliament, Garth Turner was named the

"Top Performing MP" by the Ottawa-based organization, Politics Watch.

- A revised proposal for adult townhouse condominiums in Acton was being processed by the Town, for 23 individually-owned units on Dr. Moore Court.
- Halton housing officials issued a proposal call to build 120 units of affordable housing in the Region for seniors and young people.

February

- Council approves \$50-\$98 tax increase for 2007, a 5.4% increase for a property assessed at \$300,000.
- Mae Hoare, a native Actonian celebrated her 90th birthday on Feb. 14, 2007.
- Brent Marshall was named the new Town Fire Chief, who joined

Continued on Page 4



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