

# Council debates spending surplus

Town staff are preparing a report with options on "how best and how wisely" to spend the \$2.4-million surplus funding it will receive from Queen's Park.

The funding – part of \$1.1-billion across the province – is earmarked for municipal infrastructure to improve roads, and bridg-

## Town Digest

es, expand public transit and build other municipal projects.

At a recent council meeting Mayor Rick Bonnette said, "we're very grateful to get the funding, but it might

be one-time for the rest of this term of council because there may not be (another) surplus."

The increase in infrastructure funding follows passage of the Investing in Ontario

Act that allows the provincial government to use a portion of any unanticipated year-end budget surplus to pay for public needs and to reduce the provincial deficit.

The funding is shared on a per capita basis and both regions and towns share the allocation. Halton Region will get \$22-million.

# Emily Boycott...

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time gold medallist at the 2008 Ontario Minor Track and Field Championships. Cameron, 10, set a couple of personal best records on her way to earning two Gold medals in the tyke age.

• Sofia Troop – a forward with the Brampton Canadettes Midget A hockey team that won the OWHA Provincial Championships this past April. Troop was a leading scorer for the team and force on the ice as a power

forward but her season was cut short in February when a knee injury required surgery.

Following the presentations, Mayor Bonnette said the ceremony was a wonderful opportunity to commend the award recipients, coaches, teachers and their families that support the many sport and musical interests in Halton Hills.

"You should be extremely proud of your accomplishments and your dedication to achieving excellence," he said.

# Ovations gets dance contract

Mayor Rick Bonnette wanted to make sure the Town was not "stepping on anyone's toes" by awarding a three-year \$75,000 contract to

Rhonda Copeland School of Dance – Ovations to offer recreational dance programs to children in Acton and Georgetown.

Since 2007, the Ronda

Copeland School of Dance – Ovations – has provided affordable seasonal dance programs aimed at introducing different types of dance and

developing interest.

During the last session, a total of 275 children participated in the 25 dance programs in offered at the Acton arena/community centre and in Georgetown.

Noting that the idea was to encourage youngsters to get involved with dancing so they could advance to take lessons from other dance studios in Halton Hills, Mayor Bonnette wanted assurance that the Town was not "...no pun intended, stepping on anyone's toes to get people to dance."

The \$75,000 contract runs until 2011, and the Town will recover \$40,000 through registration fees.

# Town supports Red Cross

Town Council supports a move by the Canadian Red Cross to strengthen its role with municipalities by updating the legislation that set up the humanitarian, non-profit volunteer organization as "auxiliary to public authorities" to deal with emergency management in disaster and conflict, health and injury prevention and humanitarian values.

The Canadian Red Cross has begun public consulta-

tions to promote dialogue and feedback regarding its roles and responsibilities, and prompted by Region and Town Ward one Councillor Clark Somerville, Halton Hills added its endorsement to the Canadian Red Cross auxiliary role project designed to help the organization better understand and more clearly define what the auxiliary role means.

Somerville said the Red Cross hopes to be able to

strengthen its role with municipalities by having founding legislation updated. "The legislation was brought in 1909 and hasn't really been changed much since...and they just hope to enhance the role and work with municipalities, especially in disasters and with emergency management," Somerville said, noting that the Canadian Red Cross celebrates its 100th anniversary next year.

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