

# Looks like a \$90 tax hike...

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 that the increase is acceptable to most taxpayers.  
 "We still have a community to run. We still have to do snow plowing. We still have to do parks and all of the good things that you do in a community – people working in arenas and libraries," Bonnette said, adding prior to the meeting he met with staff to look for additional cuts. "We had a levy for the fire (department) which was 1.2 per cent and we reduced it by one per cent so that reduced (the budget somewhat.) Also we had a .9 per cent library levy as we are getting ready for the renovation of the library and Monday openings, but it will probably be 2011 by the time that is

completed so we reduced that to .4 per cent," Bonnette explained, adding that the reductions meant they could cut \$150,000 from the operating budget and reduce the proposed tax increase to 5.3 per cent from 6 per cent.  
 At that point, Bonnette said they began the biggest debate of the budget over hiring two infrastructure services staff at a cost of \$116,000. Staff had said that without additional resources, not all roads would be maintained at current levels and that overtime for snow removal, road repairs was more than \$250,00 last year.  
 "The vote was 6-5 to hire the two staff – I didn't support it. I didn't think in these tough eco-

nomie times we should be hiring additional staff... I suggested that we just hire one (staff member) but the vote was 6-5 to hire both," Bonnette said.  
 As it now stands, the 2.8 per cent total tax increase to \$3,273 includes \$1,135 for Town services, \$1,346 for Regional services and \$792 for education.  
 Bonnette said there is an "outside chance" that the education portion may be reduced which would lower the total, but those numbers won't be available until the February 2 Council meeting when the budget is up for final approval, after the federal budget which might include additional municipal funding.



**IT'S TYPICAL:** Like most streets in Acton, Park Ave. is shrouded in snow with banks of it lining the road and beside driveways and sidewalks. In some commercial areas of town, the height of the snow has required removal. And guess what, the weatherman says we can expect more of the white stuff on the weekend.

## Singer Michael Burgess enchants Liberal dinner

Canadian music star Michael Burgess descended on the Hills on bone chilling Friday night to warm the hearts of over 100 people gathered at the Glencairn Gold course for a fund raiser for the Wellington-Halton Hills Federal Liberal Association. Introduced to the audience by Bruce Bowser. The Liberal candidate in the last federal election, Burgess' sensitive tenor voice enthralled the audience with selections from his roles in Les Miserables as Jean Valjean. Man of La



**Burgess, Bowser**

Mancha as Don Quixote and show-tunes favourites. Accompanied by Marty Anderson.  
 Burgess' crowd pleasing "Bring Him Home" from Les Miserables was particular enchanting as

the crowd supped on some specialties.  
 Enjoying the music was Paul Henderson, a member of the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame. Henderson became a Canadian sports legend on September 28, 1972 with with goal, with 34 seconds remaining, in the final game that lifted Canada to victory in the "Series of the century" against the Soviet Union. In 1997 on the 25th anniversary of the goal, Henderson was immortalized on a postage stamp issued by Canada Post and a silver coin by the Royal Canadian Mint.

Some attending were spotted having programs autographed by Henderson. The evening came to a close with silent auction that saw the crowd jockeying for sport memorabilia and other treasures.  
 Acton's Kay Lawson was the winner of two Windsor to Quebec City first class Via tickets.

### Fire Report

#### Avalanche burns

Halton police are investigating a car fire that destroyed a 2004 Chevrolet Avalanche that was found engulfed in flames on the Sixth Line of Nassagaweya, south of 20 Side Road at 4:03 on Saturday afternoon.

The car was valued at \$15,000.

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