

**No Halton tax increase**  
 There will not be a tax increase for Halton property owners this year – last Wednesday, Council approved a \$1.1-billion budget with a 0.2 per cent tax reduction

for Regional services including police, ambulance, roads and a combined water and wastewater rate freeze. The 0.2 per cent decrease, combined with a 0.4 per cent increase for police

# Town Digest

results in a combined property tax impact of zero per cent for next year. Property

taxes make up \$318-million of the total budget with the balance coming from development charges and federal and provincial funding.

A motion from Regional/Acton Councillor Clark Somerville will result in no pay raise for Halton councillors, a move that will save \$17,000 next year. While Councillor Somerville characterized the savings as a “symbolic pittance.”

Halton’s capital spending plan for 2010 is the second largest infrastructure spend in the region’s 35-year history with an investment of \$394-million to upgrade, expand and rehabilitate Halton’s roads, water and wastewater plants and waste management sites. In Acton, \$1.3-million is earmarked for wastewater main replacement on Longfield Road from Orville Road to Churchill Road.

**Hospital deaths drop**  
 Patient safety initiatives that began three years ago have contributed to a drop

in the death rate at Halton Healthcare Services which runs hospitals in Georgetown, Oakville and Milton, according to Healthcare CEO John Oliver.

The death rate is calculated by measuring the number of actual deaths against a baseline of 100, which was the national average in 2004-05. Locally, the rate was 78, and the reduction is due in part to the rates of deaths for palliative care patients in acute care beds at Oakville-Trafalgar Hospital no longer being included in the calculation.



**ENTRANCE AWARD:** Acton’s Matthew Vander Kooij (centre) received a Seneca College Board of Governor’s Entrance Scholarship award at a recent ceremony. The scholarships are available to first year students for academic and extracurricular achievement in high school. Vander Kooij is enrolled in the flight program at Seneca. Making the presentation were Seneca President David Agnew and Seneca Board Chair Helen Hayward. – Submitted photo

## Christmas church services

The emphasis at Acton churches this holiday season is fellowship, family and festive fun. Here is a list of the services being offered this Christmas.

- Trinity United Church**  
 Christmas Eve, 7 p.m. – carols and candlelight service
- Crossings Community Church**  
 Christmas Eve, 6:30 p.m. – a carol sing at Mill/Main parkette.  
 7 to 9 p.m. – open house at the Roxy
- Bethel Christian Reformed Church**  
 • Christmas Day – 10 a.m. service
- St. Alban’s Anglican Church**  
 • Christmas Eve, 5 p.m. – children’s service with carols and communion, 7:30 p.m. – Communion, 10 p.m. – Choral Eucharist
- Knox Presbyterian Church**  
 Christmas Eve, 7 p.m. – Service of Lessons and Carols. Christmas Day,

- 10:30 a.m. – a “Real Christ” service
- Salvation Army Corps**  
 Christmas Eve - 6:30 p.m. – Candlelight service
- St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
 Christmas Eve masses at 5p.m., 7 p.m. and at midnight. Christmas Day mass at 11 a.m.
- Churchill Community Church**  
 Christmas Eve, 7 p.m. – Service of Lessons and Carols.
- Evangel Family Church**  
 Christmas Eve, 7 p.m. – Candlelight Service.
- Acton Baptist Church**  
 Christmas Eve, 7 p.m. – Christmas Candlelight Service.
- Acton’s New Apostolic Church**  
 Christmas Day, 10:30 a.m. service  
 Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church  
 Christmas Eve, 4:30 p.m. – family service, 7:30 p.m. – Carol Service

# ACTON OPTICAL

## Merry Christmas!

At the Holiday Season, our thoughts turn to those who have made our success possible. It is in this spirit that I say thank-you and best wishes to you and yours for a wonderful holiday season!

I am happy to let you know that we now have an independent Optometrist on site for your eye exams.

In appreciation of your support I am pleased to offer you a **\$25 discount** on any purchase of \$50 or more during January and February, 2010.

In addition, in lieu of Christmas cards, this year Acton Optical is making a donation to Acton Food Share.



Nancy Wilkes, registered optician



**519-853-5133**  
**4 MILL STREET EAST**  
 AT THE FOUR CORNERS IN DOWNTOWN ACTON



## NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

### FAMILY FUN NIGHT

FEATURING THREE ROOMS OF ENTERTAINMENT

BELL RINGING  
 9:30 (KIDS)  
 &  
 MIDNIGHT

Family Wii Challenge  
 two interactive games  
 2 HUGE SCREENS!

CASH BAR WITH  
 HOT FOOD  
 DOOR PRIZES  
 GREAT RAFFLES!

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK FOR ALL THE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION - KEYWORD: party cinemas

ALL REQUEST  
 VIDEO DANCE  
 PARTY

MORE  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 ANNOUNCED  
 WEEKLY

arts & crafts  
 face painting  
 FUN & GAMES

WHERE: Heritage Acton Town Hall 19 Willow St N Acton (Behind Godfathers Pizza)  
 WHEN: December 31st 2009 - Doors open at 7:00 pm

### PROCEEDS GOING TO

TICKETS  
 Family Pass (4) ... \$35  
 Individuals 19+ ... \$12  
 18 & under ... \$8  
 kids 2 and under free!  
 INCLUDES PARTY FAVOURS



Acton Town  
 Hall Centre

Purchase Online  
 AT  
**PARTY CINEMAS.COM**  
 Or Call  
 519-853-0053  
 519-853-5302  
 also available at various local businesses