

User fees to rise with inflation

Area residents can expect Town user fees and services to go up by an average of 2.7 per cent in January.

Milton's administration and planning committee approved the fee increases Monday.

"Staff has reviewed the latest consumer price indexes and has incorporated an adjustment to the majority of existing approved user fees," states a staff report presented to the committee.

"Some fees have been adjusted by an amount greater than the index to recognize market conditions or the current cost of the service."

Milton council hasn't adopted a position on user fee increases at this time, but is expected to address the issue Monday.

Operating costs coming in below budget

The Town of Milton is eyeing a \$112,486 surplus in the 2002 operating budget, as forecasted at this time.

According to a staff report presented to

Council briefs

the Milton administration and planning committee Monday, the surplus is, in part, the result of a delay in hiring for the 'help desk', collected revenues that were unaccounted and an increase in program revenues.

Council will address the surplus during budget discussions later this year.

GO Transit to open new layover station

GO Transit is looking to construct a new layover station in Milton, north of the CP Rail tracks, east of James Snow Parkway and west of Fifth Line.

Milton's administration and planning committee endorsed the proposal 'in principle' Monday, providing GO meets all Town planning requirements and agrees to mitigating measures.

Any mitigating factors are expected to be

identified during an environmental assessment — which is to be conducted prior to construction.

If ultimately approved by town council and the Ministry of the Environment, the station would be used to house train cars overnight.

Town council is expected to address the "in-principle" approval Monday.

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Tour brings in \$30,000

Christmas has come early for the United Way of Milton.

The non-profit organization reached its fundraising goal of \$30,000 for this year's A Town and Country Christmas House Tour.

The tour, which took place Saturday, featured six homes decorated in the spirit of Christmas in Milton, Campbellville and Moffat.

More than 1,000 tickets were sold for the event, said Anne Eadie, executive director of the United Way.

"It went very well, we had a good turnout," she said, adding last year \$20,000 was raised from the tour.

"I've heard no complaints. The six houses were so different from each other so I really can't say there was a favourite. There was something beautiful about each house."

The special lunch offered Saturday at the

Harrop Restaurant on Steeles Avenue was also well received, she added.

Ms Eadie said the sneak-peak house tour last Friday, which allowed 120 individuals a first glance at the homes, was a success.

"The Friday night tour was a new addition this year. We will definitely consider having it again next year and adding additional ticket availability. It was really different to see the homes decorated in the evening with the lights and candles. It gave it a different feeling."

The Friday night group met at Springridge Farm and travelled by bus to the various homes before returning to the farm for wine and hors d'oeuvres.

"The entire tour was a tremendous success and we really appreciated the community's support. We are already planning next year's tour so people who wish to have their home part of the tour should contact the United Way."

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