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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**READY TO CELEBRATE:** Five-year-old quadruplets (clockwise from bottom left) Kayla, Luke, Emily and Jacob Harrison lie in a sea of Canadian flags as they get ready to celebrate Canada's 139th birthday tomorrow at the Milton Fair Grounds. The event promises to have something for everyone, including a petting zoo, demonstrations, music and, of course, a spectacular fireworks display. See story page A2.

## Taxes expected to go up \$61 next year

By Melanie Hennessey  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Town staff is forecasting the average urban residents' taxes will increase by about \$61 next year and rural residents' by approximately \$50.

The preliminary numbers were put forward by Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer Linda Leeds at Monday night's budget committee meeting, where councillors looked over figures projected for 2007 and

2008 and conducted a pre-budget public consultation process.

In a presentation, Leeds explained that an 8.98 per cent tax increase would be required next year for the Town to maintain existing service levels. The number is based on council approving a three per cent tax hike for 2006.

She also said the 2008 tax increase forecast is 11.34 per cent, or an additional \$84 for those in the urban area and \$69 for rural citizens based on a \$300,000 assessment.

She emphasized that the actual tax num-

bers will be determined through the budget process by the new council coming in this fall.

Wards 2 and 4 Councillor Ron Furik said there's a perception in town that since so many new homes are being built, taxes should be going down.

But Leeds told him that as the town grows, there's an increase in demand for services.

During the meeting, three local residents took the chance to share their thoughts on the budget and its process.

• see BUDGET on page A8

## Mayor has challenger

Recent days have brought about changes on the municipal election front, with one candidate withdrawing and another filing to run for mayor.

Chambers Place resident Gerry Marsh has put his name forward for council's top spot, going up against longtime Mayor Gord Krantz who has held the position for the past 25 years.

Meanwhile, Ward 1 candidate Kevin Brackley announced he will no longer be running in this fall's election due to "unforeseeable circumstances."

Ward 2 incumbent Mike Boughton declared his intentions to run again this week. Other candidates who've filed so far are: Ward 1, Mike Cluett; Ward 2, Jim Timbers; Ward 3, Lieven Gevaert; Ward 4, Wendy Schau; Wards 1 and 3, Barry Lee, Tony Lambert and Frank Massara; Wards 2 and 4, Ron Furik and Rick Malboeuf.

Former Halton Liberal MP Gary Carr is the only person running for the regional chairman position so far.

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**Hawkins Animal Hospital**  
**AN IMPORTANT SUMMER MESSAGE TO ALL PETS**

Please remind your humans to keep you cool this summer. Tell them that they are not the only ones to get thirsty and suffer or die from heat exhaustion. Tell them that you could die in an unattended vehicle when it is hot. And hey, if you do not want to go out jogging with them when it is 30 plus, tell them my friend. Finally, to all my "outside/kennel" friends, tell your humans that a maggot infestation (from pesky flies) under the tail is no joke, and it CAN be avoided. So, keep cool, keep well and keep up with the heartworm medication.

Signed "Dolly" Hawkins. (Registered Golden Retriever and Cat Lover) **IF ONLY PETS COULD SPEAK.**

**Dr. Debbie Hawkins** 550 Ontario St. S., Unit 5A (located in Pizza Hut Plaza) 905-875-6888