



OH, BABY: Acton's first New Year's baby, Brooke Nicole Bergsma, shown with proud but sleep-deprived parents Jennifer and James, came into the world at 3:55 p.m. on January 1 at Oakville Trafalgar Hospital. —Submitted photo

Welcome to Brooke Bergsma, Acton's first baby of New Year

A shortage of local obstetricians meant Acton's first New Year's baby — Brooke Nicole Bergsma — entered the world in Oakville.

Brooke is also the first New Year's baby in Halton

Town debates \$'s, cents

The Town's budget committee — all councillors and the mayor — begin debate on the 2003 capital and operating budgets on Tuesday with budget chief, Acton and Halton Councillor Rick Bonnette in the chair.

At a budget workshop/information session on Tuesday, treasurer and director of finance Ed De Sousa walked the committee through an overview that included the statistics, accomplishments and objectives of the Town's departments.

DeSousa said the budget as presented includes a 4.9 per cent tax increase, but could drop to 4.7 per cent, as recommended by the COA, if Council increases revenues by charging developers more to process their plans, a decision that will be made in two weeks.

DeSousa called the 4.7 per cent tax increase "reasonable," adding it would translate to \$38 more in Town taxes for the average Acton property owner.

"I don't know how

Hills, but her arrival did not cause much of a fuss at Oakville Trafalgar Hospital, where she was the third baby born on January 1.

Mowbray Place resident Jennifer Bergsma was one

budget committee will feel," DeSousa said on Tuesday, adding several councillors indicated they wanted a tax increase below five per cent.

The proposed capital budget is \$5.1-million with the lion's share earmarked for engineering and public works.

With expenditures of \$17.9-million, the 2003 operating budget includes a net tax levy of \$14.7-million.

day past her due date when labour pains diverted her and husband James, a van company dispatcher, from a quiet New Year's Eve with friends to the labour room, and 20 hours later, the delivery room.

With James at her side, Jennifer delivered her first child at 3:55 p.m. on January 1, 2003. Brooke tipped the scales at a healthy 9-lbs., 5-oz.

The new family came home on Friday, and on Sunday, dad James said they were "tired, but happy."

"The first day was a little bit weird because we had to get used to not sleeping, but we're settling in," he said, adding Brooke is the first grandchild for both sets of parents.

Mayor wants second term

Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle wants a second term in office and wasted no time declaring her intentions.

She filed the necessary papers to campaign for re-election late Friday afternoon, taking advantage of provincial legislation allowing candidates to declare, and begin campaigning, as of January 1 in an election year.

When asked about her political plans, Gastle said there's still work to be done.

"There are still many opportunities for Halton Hills to develop and grow as a clean, green, safe community. I want to be part of that process to ensure that we continue to be the best municipality in Canada," she said on Monday.

Gastle intends to campaign early, but won't put up signs for a while, instead concentrating on the "huge job" of knocking on doors to talk to voters.

Gastle defeated three-term mayor Marilyn Serjeantson and former councillor Rob Heaton in the 2000 election. The Norval native's political



Kathy Gastle

career began in 1991 when she won the Ward Two local seat.

Following an easy re-election in 1994, Gastle was appointed to Regional Council in 1995 after the death of incumbent councillor Bill Robson. She finished that term then chose to run for the Ward Two local seat, holding it until her challenge for mayor.

At presstime, Gastle was the only local politician to declare her candidacy for the November 10 election.

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