

Township staff comes in for plenty of praise for work on budget

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There was a bit of opposition to this, however.

"I'm not for or against it," commented Councillor Jack Rupke, who said he lacked complete information on which to base a decision.

He was concerned there would be an obligation to bring in the accessibility issues if the kitchen was renovated, and he wanted that matter delayed until staff could report on it.

Councillor Jane Underhill argued it was a safety issue involved in this. "I think it needs to be done and should be done," she said.

Councillor Jeff Laidlaw said he understood the accessibility act requires more intensive work if there's a significant renovation, and he didn't think the proposed work on the kitchen qualified. "Most of this is maintenance and upkeep," he remarked.

Jeffery Parks, manager of budgets and accounting for the Township, said the extra \$20,000 could add about 0.2 per cent to the tax increase, but added staff would look through the budget to see if the money could be found.

"I'm quite sure it can be," Mayor Margaret Black commented after the meeting.

Laidlaw was the opposition when the budget came down to a vote, as he circulated a document to his colleagues pointing to what he considered excessive budget increases over the last couple of years.

"From the public's perspective, we have roads which don't seem to get fixed, ditches which have needed to be cleared now for many years, municipal buildings where the public almost has to beg to get proper maintenance done, and in the interim the Township can spend

\$700,000 refacing the plaza in King City and \$800,000 on the expansion at the Nobleton Arena," he stated.

Laidlaw's statement got a couple of backs up, including that of Black, who had previously lavished praise on the job staff had done, calling it "a really excellent budget." She stated it was the result of an extensive public process. "This has been well-vetted in the community," she declared.

"Tax increases are what's relevant," she declared, as she called on Laidlaw to say where he wanted cuts to be made. He replied he wanted to hear ideas from staff.

Black countered the

budget on the table Monday night was the result of four meetings and about 12 staff reports, and she was puzzled that Laidlaw waited until the budget was about to be passed to pass around a document she called "rubbish."

"You ought to know better," she added, berating Laidlaw for not having suggestions on how to address his concerns.

Rupke agreed, commenting if he had a submission like Laidlaw's he would have included suggestions, too.

"Society today is demanding a lot more than nothing," he declared.

Laidlaw also praised staff

for the job they did, even if he had problems with the result.

"I don't in principle agree with this budget," he remarked, adding he had said that previously.

Township CAO Scott Somerville said the budget on the table Monday was essentially the same as had been put before council at its last budget session late in March, with a few minor changes.

"We believe it's a responsible budget," he declared.

Councillor Cleve Mortelliti commented this was his first budget since taking office, and called the experience a "trial by fire."

Having worked two years in the operations department, he said he understood the needs of staff. He was glad to see there would be more help in the clerk's department, and happy to see the planning staff bolstered. He said the planners are going to be swamped with applications and need to be ready.

Mortelliti added he doesn't know everything about municipal accounting, but was willing to trust the expertise of staff.

"I hate tax increases," Councillor Bill Cober declared, but he added there's a cost to everything. "There are demands and nothing is free."

Bill Lacey remembered in the community

Dr. Bill Lacey spent some 40 years fixing the teeth of people in King City and beyond, and then he set

himself up as a real-estate broker.

And through it all, he found time to be a Mason,

Shriner, Lion and member of numerous boards and agencies.

Dr. Lacey died Thursday after a long battle with cancer. He was 65.

Dr. Lacey retired from dentistry a couple of years ago to devote himself to Lacey Real Estate.

"It's a family business," he remarked at the time, pointing out his wife Lynda was working there as a sales representative, his son Michael had joined the firm and son Jeff was broker and president.

"We're brokers and partners and mother's the boss," he joked.

Dr. Lacey came to the area right after graduating from five years at the school of dentistry at the University of Toronto.

"I started out on my own," he commented at his retirement, adding there were a number of factors that led him to set up practice in King. He was from the township originally, and his wife was from Nobleton. As well,

there was the high school in the area, and when one is starting a dentistry practice, he knows mothers and kids are the first patients one is likely to see.

"It seemed the right thing to do," he commented.

Mayor Margaret Black spoke about Dr. Lacey at the start of Monday's Township council meeting, calling him a "very quiet volunteer."

His volunteer activities included many years with Nobleton Minor Hockey Association and serving on the executive of the King Township Chamber of Commerce. He was a recipient of the Ontario Bi-Centennial Medal, and he received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication and commitment to his community from the Township of King last month.

"He was a wonderful person," Black commented, adding he was also her dentist.

He will be really truly missed by many of us and by the community," she said at the council meeting.

Dr. Lacey is survived by his wife Lynda Nattress; children Jeffrey and Lisa Lacey, Kimberly and Scott Gray, Jennifer and Michael Ceconi, and Michael Lacey; his grandchildren Grace, James, Connor and Ethan; his sister Susan Lacey and her fiancé Sam Kotsinas; and his mother-in-law Jean Nattress.

Services for Dr. Lacey were Monday at All Saints Anglican Church in King City. He was buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Bolton.

Donations in Dr. Lacey's memory may be made to Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation — Cancer Centre, 596 Davis Dr., Newmarket L3Y 2P9 or Shriners Hospitals for Children, 3100 Keele St., Toronto M3M 2H4.



Dr. Bill Lacey

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Tim Hortons CAFE

Please come join us for the 1st Annual **Tim Horton's Camp Day 5 Km Walk/Run**
Date: June 6th, 2007
Cost: \$10
(You will receive a Camp Day T-shirt and a bottle of water)

Tottenham There will be a 10 Km Walk/Run commencing at 9 am. Pledge forms can be picked up at Tim Horton's in Tottenham or Schomberg.

Nobleton
There will also be a 5 Km Walk/Run commencing at 11 am. Pledge forms can be picked up at Nobleton's Tim Horton's.

This is an ALL ages event and everyone is invited to participate. For more information please call Cindy or Jen at 905 936-9754

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ORMLT holding 2007 AGM at Slokker site

The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust's annual general meeting will be held at Nobleton's newest conservation area (former Slokker property) this Saturday (May 12)

It will start at 10:30 a.m. The property is on the south side of the 15th Sideroad, east of Highway 27.

Representatives from York Region, as well as Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) will be there to discuss how the property will be stewarded. A light lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m., followed by a hike of the property.

For more details, including directions, contact the trust office at (905) 833-3171 or visit the Web site at www.oakridgesmoraine.org

ORDER YOUR GERANIUMS TODAY!!

Once again, King Township Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring the "Coral" geranium sale. This geranium has been designated the official flower of King Township in honour of **Lady Flavelle** the founder of Kingcraft and avid King horticulturalist.

This non-profit endeavour is in keeping with the KTCC's philosophy of uniting township residents in the common goal of beautifying our community.

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(Sponsored with enthusiasm by the King Township Chamber of Commerce)