

The way we were



Down the river

An image from just over a century ago shows how natural resources played a role in the town's economy with logging on Limehouse Pond.

Images courtesy of Esquesing Historical Society/text Heritage Halton Hills

From our readers

LET'S PLAY

Appropriately named Storm loved to play out in the snow that fell during the Groundhog Day storm. About 20-30 cm of snow clogged roads, driveways and sidewalks—the variation of totals depended on the wind gusts of up to 50 km/h causing high drifts in some locations.

Photo by Kerri Chaplin



Region approves 2015 budget: focus is on investing

On Jan. 28, Regional Council approved the 2015 Budget and Business Plan with a continued focus on investment in the planning and delivery of infrastructure. The Region has made it a strategic priority to invest for the future. That is why we continue to make investments in Regional assets, infrastructure and facilities a priority.

The 2015 budget includes a significant investment in infrastructure and an increase in the Region's investment in the water, wastewater and transportation State-of-Good-Repair capital programs, from \$69 million in 2007 to \$110 million.

Our 2015 budget continues the Region's focus on maintaining service levels, making strategic investments and maintaining the tax rate increase for Regional services within the rate of inflation. The 2015 Budget includes a 1.5 per cent increase in property taxes for Regional programs and services.

Here are some highlights of key investments in the 2015 Budget:

Investments to Maintain Existing Infrastructure

- Significant investments in maintaining the State-of-Good-Repair of our infrastructure and our Asset Management programs including \$5.7 million towards Water and Wastewater State-of-Good-Repair.

Connecting People to Services

- New investments in Public Health and Social Services programs including \$1.0 million for additional staff and vehicles for Paramedic Services and \$200,000 for Crisis Prevention/COMMANDE, a

multi-agency initiative committed to the health and safety of the community by providing real-time, co-ordinated responses to high-risk situations.

Adapting to Climate Change

- A significant expansion to our Emergency Management Program including \$5.5 million towards emergency generators in warming and reception centres and \$378,000 to increase the Region's capacity to respond to emergencies; \$5.0 million to assist in the implementation of any potential recommendations of the Region-wide Basement Flooding Mitigation Study.

Economic Growth

- \$1.0 million towards a Pilot Area Servicing Plan Study for economic development and intensification to be undertaken in each

Local Municipality for the advancement of employment lands and Urban Growth Centre intensification.

Financial Stability

- Adjustments to help maintain financial stability over the next 10 years.

The 2015 Budget approved funding for a new Halton Regional Police Headquarters on the Halton Regional Centre site in Oakville. The Budget also includes a 4.9 per cent increase in the 2015 Water and Wastewater Rate. Of the 4.9 per cent increase, 1.1 per cent will fund operating costs of Halton's water and wastewater systems to keep Halton's water safe and 3.8 per cent is for investment in treatment plants and pipeline systems.

If you'd like to find more about Halton's 2015 Budget, visit Halton.ca/budget or dial 311.

Gary Carr is the chair of Halton Region



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