

## Conservation Halton board of directors elects new chairperson

Conservation Halton held its 61st inaugural board meeting on Feb. 23 at which Gerry Smallegange, president and CEO of Burlington Hydro, was elected the 10th chair in the board's history.

Cathy Duddeck, an Oakville town and regional councillor, was acclaimed as vice-chair and enters her third year in the role.

Both Smallegange and Duddeck have been on the Conservation Halton board since 2011. Smallegange replaces Burlington resident John Vice, who had served as Conservation Halton (CH) chair for six years.

Vice has been on the Conservation Halton board since 2004. He was named chair in 2011 and also served as vice-chair from 2007-10.

"I would like to thank John Vice for his leadership and commend him for the fantastic work he has done as chair. My goal is for Conservation Halton to be a well-run, fiscally responsible organization and continue to be environmental leaders....," said Smallegange in a press release.

The chair and vice-chair are elected by members of the Conservation Halton board of directors for one-year terms. They must be current members of the CH board and be nominated by their peers.

At the recent meeting, the CH board also ap-



Gerry Smallegange



Cathy Duddeck

proved the final version of its new Strategic Plan, entitled Metamorphosis.

CH says extensive public consultation was conducted last summer and fall on the draft version of the Strategic Plan with stakeholder meetings, public open houses, an online survey and interaction through its social media platforms.

"The new Strategic Plan will help guide the transformation of Conservation Halton over the next three years and will enable us to be faster and more agile, to become better listeners and collaborators, and to provide more innovative services and solutions....," said Hassaan Basit, CH's Chief Administrative Officer.

Metamorphosis was chosen as the name of the Strategic Plan because CH noted that in nature metamorphosis is the biological pro-

cess of transformation, differentiation and growth that many species go through as they transition from one life stage to the next.

### Themes

The Strategic Plan's five main themes are taking care of growing communities, protecting the natural, cultural and scenic assets, preparing for the effects of climate change, creating opportunities to connect with nature and striving for service excellence and efficiency. The final version of the Strategic Plan can be

viewed at [www.conservationhalton.ca/metamorphosis](http://www.conservationhalton.ca/metamorphosis).

The Conservation Halton board of directors is made up of elected officials and citizen representatives appointed by the communities within Conservation Halton's watershed — Burlington, Halton Hills, Hamilton, Milton, Mississauga, Oakville and Puslinch. Local representatives serving on the board include Mayor Gord Krantz, Local and Regional Councillor Mike Cluett, and Town Councillor Robert Duvall.



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