

# Secret ballot vote nixed to decide regional chair

By ANI FEDERIAN  
Herald Staff

No more secret ballots when it comes to choosing Halton Region's chairman.

Last week, councillors voted in favor of open ballots at the next election for Regional chairman. That means councillors won't hold an in-camera vote first then hold a second vote in public. In the past, the in-camera vote served to identify the winner of the post and the public vote was a formality to satisfy provincial legislation.

"The reason we have two ballots is to respect technically, but not in spirit, the legislation. The first ballot

is a straw vote, and the second by gentleman's agreement," Burlington Coun. Bob Forbes said at last week's Regional council meeting.

Voting in favor of the open ballot was Halton Hills Coun. Marilyn Serjantson. Opposed were Halton Hills Couns. John McDonald, Pam Sheldon and Rick Bette. Mayor Russ Miller was absent.

Burlington Coun. Walter Mulkewich said the procedure used by Halton Region in the past was clean and open and going with one vote by open ballot is a step backwards, to backroom dealings and the influence of party politics. His preference would be for all

Halton taxpayers to be able to vote for their Regional chairman rather than their Regional councillors alone.

Burlington Coun. Joan Little said the open ballot will make councillors accountable to taxpayers.

Oakville Mayor Bill Perras said he felt uncomfortable with the secret ballot system used in the last election and called the move to an open vote an improvement.

Oakville Coun. Keith Bird said going to an open ballot will create more problems. He noted taxpayers elect their councillors by secret ballot and he felt it should be the same when electing the Regional chairman.

# Halton Hills Outlook



Georgetown Globe Productions presents Stay Tuned - a musical variety show that depicts a typical day of TV broadcasting beginning May 22. For the moment, cast members (seen above) are hard at work practising for their debut at the Elk's Hall in Norval. The musical director of the show is Marilyn Micklethwait and the choreographers are Linda King and Rose Carnduff.

## Community Calendar

MAY 1987						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 7 - Acton District High School presents *Proppies*, a musical comedy that's sure to amuse. The play also runs May 8 and 9. The show starts at 8 p.m.

May 2, 3 - St. John's United Church of Georgetown is performing a family musical based on the parables of Jesus. The performance begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for adults. Phone 877-2831.



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