

Regional Review comes under fire

The Regional Review Sub-Committee looking into the make-up of Halton Council came under fire Wednesday from members of Regional Council for supporting the status quo.

Burlington Regional Councillor Rob Forbes said the sub-committee's recommendations showed an unwillingness by committee members "to take a chance and reach for something better for fear there might be something better."

The councillor was referring to the sub-committee's recommendation that the current selection process for Regional chairperson remain the same. The chairperson, who is currently Norval resident Peter Pomeroy, is elected by Regional Councillors.

Coun. Forbes said the chairperson should be elected directly by Halton residents, for the sake of democracy.

He rejected outright the sub-committee's argument against Region-wide elections for the Chairperson. The sub-committee felt it would be too expensive to finance a Region-wide election.

If this statement is true, then it follows the Mayor of Toronto shouldn't be elected by the peo-



Pete Pomeroy

ple, Coun. Forbes said. He explained it wouldn't be any more expensive for an individual to run Halton Regional Chairperson as it would for an individual to run for Toronto mayor.

Coun. Forbes' call for direct election of the chairperson was supported by Burlington Regional Councillor Walter Mulkewich.

Halton Hills Regional Councillor and sub-committee member Rick Bonnette took ex-

ception to Coun. Forbes and his supporters, saying municipal councillors from throughout the Region and the public at large showed little or no interest in the Regional review.

He noted only 35 out of 54 municipal politicians in Halton Region made submissions to the Regional Review Sub-Committee. As well, the committee held several meetings and issued press releases to solicit public input on whether changes should be made to Halton Council, but there were few replies.

"The little interest shown by municipal politicians and the public shows people either don't give a damn or they are satisfied with the way things are," said Coun. Bonnette.

Frustrated with the debate, Coun. Bonnette urged council members to support a recommendation the sub-committee's report be distributed to Halton's four municipalities - Halton Hills, Milton, Oakville and Burlington. In this way Regional council may be able to get a better idea about the public's opinion about Regional government, he said.

Council voted in support of the recommendation.



Afternoon delight

Ice cream was running down his face, arms and legs but two-year-old Jeffrey Pierce of Georgetown didn't care as long as his tongue was dripping with ice cream too. Jeffrey got to make a mess all in the name of fun at the Georgetown Day Care Centre year-end family barbecue held Wednesday afternoon. (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

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Halton Hills agrees to pay hikes for firefighters and public employees

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

Public employees with the Town of Halton Hills and local firefighters have received pay hikes as a result of contract negotiations with the Town, confirmed Town Administrator-Clerk Dan Costea during an interview Wednesday.

Members of Local 73 Canadian Union of Public Employees,

(CUPE) settled on a two-year contract in which they will receive a 5 per cent pay increase in each of the two years, said Mr. Costea. The local is comprised of 65 members who come under the heading of Public Works and Parks Outside Workers. These include park maintenance workers, arena operators and road improvement staff.

The local had been without a contract since April.

Mr. Costea said the contract also included minor adjustments to medical and clothing benefits.

"There were no real problems, the negotiations went well," said Mr. Costea.

Comparatively, the yearly five per cent increase represents a one per cent drop in the pay hikes agreed upon in Local 73's previous contract. In that contract the employees received pay hikes of six per cent in each year of the two-year deal.

Heading into this round of negotiations, Mr. Costea said each side started with different wage increase proposals. He wouldn't specify the wage starting points. He did say, however, "no one came in at an unreasonable position."

The Town also settled with its non-union employees, mostly clerical and administrative staff. The 85 staff members will receive

5 per cent wage hikes in each of the next two years, said Mr. Costea.

The third settlement represented the first contract for the Halton Hills Firefighters Association. The union, which is comprised of the eight full-time employees with Halton Hills Fire Department, was formed last fall.

The settlement calls for a first-class firefighters to work 40 hours instead of 35 hours per week during the next two years. In the first year of the contract a first class firefighter will receive \$46,000. That figure will increase to \$49,368 in the contract's second year, said Mr. Costea.

The fire department's four fire prevention officers and one fire training officer are affected by this contract.

The department's dispatch staff will receive \$29,462 in the first year and \$34,660 in the second year, according to the two-year deal.

Mr. Costea said negotiations with the Firefighters Association started in February. They took a long time because it was a first-time contract, said Mr. Costea.

Mr. Costea said the settlements are in line with contracts signed between other municipalities and similar types of staff.



Big bucks

President of Georgetown's Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 Ladies Auxilliary, Sheila Hicks, presented Branch 120 Legion President Bob McNeill with a cheque for \$7,000 Wednesday. The money represents the culmination of all that was raised during the last year by the auxilliary. The cheque presentation was just one of the events staged at Ladies Auxilliary Appreciation Night held Thursday at Branch 120. (Herald photo)

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Quote of the Week

"One can always tell when one is getting old and serious by the way that holidays seem to interfere with one's work."

Bob Edwards Calgary
"Eye Opener" (1913)

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* See Our Glen Williams Canada Day Schedule on Page 11

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