

Tax relief from the Region

On December 16, 2009, Halton regional council approved the Region's 2010 Budget and Business Plan, delivering a 0.2% tax reduction for regional programs and services and a combined water and wastewater rate freeze for Halton residents.

Since my motion for a 2010 tax freeze in April, Regional council and staff have worked diligently to ensure the 2010 budget is one that offers residents the financial relief they need while enhancing our community's core services and service levels.

The 0.2% tax reduction in the 2010 budget will not halt investment in the services and programs you have told us are important to you, including infrastructure (e.g. regional roads and water and wastewater facilities), employment and social assistance programs, emergency preparedness, and public health.

In two of the last four years, Halton has reduced its tax portion for regional programs and services, and, over the last four years, the combined tax increase for Regional programs and services has been less than half a per cent— one of the lowest among municipalities in Canada.

The budget delivers the second-largest capital infrastructure invest-



Gary Carr

ment program in the Region's 35-year history, with an investment of \$394.7 million.

This funding will be used to upgrade, expand and rehabilitate Halton's infrastructure. This funding includes \$109.3 million for transportation, \$252.8 million for water and wastewater, and \$1.5 million for waste management.

I would like to thank Regional council and staff who showed tremendous commitment throughout the 2010 budget review process to deliver a 0.2% tax reduction for Halton taxpayers to provide them with the relief they need in these uncertain economic times.

To learn more about the 2010 Budget and Business Plan visit www.halton.ca/2010budget.

—Gary Carr is the chair of Halton Region



Healthy snacking at Joseph Gibbons

Joseph Gibbons School recently unveiled its much-anticipated Healthy Snack Program. The program is aimed at educating students about healthy eating choices and improved learning abilities and is one of 19 programs overseen by Halton Food for Thought in 17 schools in Halton Hills. Joseph Gibbons Snack Program is run by school volunteers, led by Sammi Brooks, and is offered to students on Wednesday and Thursday during morning break. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Joseph Gibbons School and to learn more about Halton Food for Thought and student nutrition, please visit www.haltonfoodforthought.ca. Among those taking part in the launch were, from left, Grade 5 students Georgia-MayDavies, Davis Drover, Skylar Sponagle, and Justine Brooks.

Submitted photo

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