

# Halton charities urged to use rebate program

Halton Region is encouraging local charities to take advantage of the Charity Tax Rebate program.

Required by the Province of Ontario, for registered charities that occupy commercial or industrial properties in Halton, the program provides a tax rebate of 40 per cent of the property taxes paid by local charities.

"The Charity Tax Rebate program is just one of the ways that Halton Region supports the great work of local charities in our community," said Regional Chair Gary Carr. "The support provided by charities throughout Halton is one of the reasons that Halton is such a great place to live, work, raise a family and retire."

The Charity Tax Rebate program is administered by the local municipalities in Halton. Charities must have a valid registration number issued by the Canada Revenue Agency, must rent a commercial or industrial property in Halton and be able to verify the amount of property taxes paid included in the rent to be eligible for the rebate. Interested charitable organizations should contact the local municipal tax office to determine eligibility. There is no cost to apply for this rebate.

Applications must be made annually and received between January 1 of the taxation year and no later than the last day of February of the following taxation year for which the charity rebate is being requested. For example, an application for the 2012 tax year must be received between January 1, 2012 and February 28, 2013.

To apply for the Charity Tax rebate visit [www.halton.ca/propertytaxes](http://www.halton.ca/propertytaxes) and complete the "Registered Charity Tax Relief Application."

# Somerville Ontario's rep at FCM

Halton Hills regional councillor Clark Somerville has been elected to represent Ontario on the national board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

The Wards 1 & 2 Regional Councillor was elected as one of the 16 delegates (10 elected, six appointed) to represent Ontario at the national level. This will be his fifth year representing the local area at FCM. In August he will find out what committees he will serve on, but he has requested a return to the Rural Forum, which promotes rural and agricultural issues.

Somerville says he enjoys seeing municipal affairs from a national perspective. As well, his work at FCM affords him unique opportunities that other local politicians may not get. For example earlier this year, Somerville met with the federal finance minister Jim Flaherty to discuss Halton and Halton Hills issues.

"It's a tremendous benefit," he said to be able to bring municipal issues, such as budget concerns to a



Halton Hills Councillor Clark Somerville (second from left) was recently named to represent Ontario on the national FCM board. FCM members recently met with federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty (centre). From left are FCM Past President Hans Cunningham, Central Kootenays B.C., Somerville, Bromont, Que. Mayor Pauline Quinlan, FCM 1st VP Karen Lieobivici of Edmonton, Flaherty, FCM President Berry Verbanovic of Kitchener, Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, and FCM CEO Brock Carlton.

national discussion.

Somerville also brings Halton and Halton Hills resolutions to the national stage such as the buy Canadian policy a few years ago or the latest - improvement to electoral process.

Somerville said when the Halton Hills resolution was being debated,

many municipalities stood up to support it, from the smallest of 350 residents to the City of Toronto. At the end of the discussion, all representatives in the room, more than 600, voted to endorse the Halton Hills resolution as a FCM policy, said Somerville. It was a proud moment for him, he said.

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