

Burlington councillor claims Halton Region's top job

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

For the first time in the region's history a woman has landed the top job in Halton. Longtime Burlington regional councillor Joyce Savoline was elected chairperson of Halton Region Wednesday afternoon by council on the first ballot.

Following the swearing in of the council members at the inaugural meeting, an open vote was held to elect the new chairperson. Savoline, garnered 13 votes, Oakville councillor Kevin Flynn received seven and Milton mayor Gord Krantz received the support of four members. Savoline supporters were all the Burlington members, Halton Hills reps Bill Robson, Rick Bonnette, John Day, Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson, and Oakville represen-

tative Stephen Sparling. Halton Hills Ward 4 rep Al Cook supported Krantz. After the vote, at Krantz's suggestion, Savoline's election to chairperson was supported unanimously.

Savoline, 49, has been a Burlington representative on regional council for the past 12 years. She was born in Shanghai, China, moved to Toronto at the age of seven and has lived in Burlington for 21 years. She and her husband Ron have two children.

She said her political career was a natural progression from the volunteer positions she held while she was home raising her children.

In her first address as regional chair



JOYCE SAVOLINE

Savoline said council will need to be innovative in the coming term.

"Our challenge will include redefining roles (of the levels of government)" said Savoline. She added council should look at expanding public and private partnerships and resolving outstanding issues in the Halton Urban Structure Plan.

"Continued dialogue with the province is imperative," said Savoline adding she will handle that immediately and aggressively. A fair taxation method is one issue she intends to pursue at the provincial level.

Savoline thanked outgoing chair Peter Pomeroy for the leadership he has shown in the past decade.

The new chairperson was nominated by Burlington councillor Rob MacIsaac and Halton Hills representative Rick Bonnette seconded the nomination.

"The best man for the job is a woman named Joyce Savoline," said MacIsaac in his nomination speech. He said she isn't parochial and cited her experience, dedication and tenacity.

Bonnette said over the nine years he has worked with Savoline she has been fair to all municipalities when making decisions and spoke of her compassion, practicality and common sense approach.

After the meeting Savoline said she will miss the direct constituent work she enjoys. She added she was surprised to win on the first ballot.

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News

Digest

Acton robbery

An Acton variety store was robbed and the 58-year-old clerk assaulted Tuesday at 6 p.m., police said. A man entered the store wearing a toque and scarf covering most of his face. He immediately assaulted the clerk, dragged her to the cash register and ordered her to open it, police said. The suspect left with an undisclosed amount of money and fled on foot. The woman suffered abrasions to her cheek and a split lip. The suspect was medium height, in his late teens or early 20s and wearing dark clothing.

Toy drive

The Halton Community Credit Union is holding a food and toy drive until Christmas. They hope to collect non-perishable food items, as well as new or nearly new used toys. These will be distributed through Acton Food Share and Love in Christ Food Bank. Bins have been set up in both the Acton and Georgetown branches.

Light it up

Don't forget to turn on your lights for the Kinsmen Seniors' Tour of the Lights on Thursday, December 15. The tour begins at 7 p.m.

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Firefighter for a day



Fire prevention officers Bob White (right) and Brian Ellsworth (left) gave 4-year-old Cameron O'Rourke the royal treatment Tuesday when he was given an award for his enthusiasm in the Learn Not to Burn program.

The Maple Co-op Nursery School student was an honorary firefighter for the day, got to ride in a fire truck and received a special t-shirt and framed award. For complete details see page 2. Photo by JANET BAINE



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