

KRANTZ: 'BIGGER GOVERNMENT IS NOT NECESSARILY BETTER GOVERNMENT.'

Continued from page 1

not broken," said Meed Ward.

"But even more importantly than that, let Halton be your gold standard model for what regional government looks like. I think we've set a new standard of excellence in governance."

The motion also received support from We Love Oakville, a grassroots group of 11 residents' associations in Oakville who have come together to support the current system in Halton.

Ted Haugen, who spoke on behalf of the group, told council they started a campaign a month ago to oppose amalgamation and have already raised \$11,000 to support the cause - funds that will be used for signs, information cards and a

THE ISSUE:
REGION OPPOSES HALTON AMALGAMATION
LOCAL IMPACT: POSSIBLE CHANGES CALLED 'DISRUPTIVE' AND 'WASTEFUL'

potential mailing campaign.

"Our local government structure works well for us," he said. "We strongly support the resolution for many reasons."

He explained the group feels amalgamation would be costly and result in lost decision-making power, quality of life and efficiency in services.

The sentiment was

echoed by others around the regional council table, like Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, who was a local politician when Halton Region was first formed in 1974.

"Even the Region of Halton went through hell for quite a period of time," he said, recalling the serious financial problems that plagued the region in the early days following that amalgamation 45 years ago. "But in my opinion, it (Halton Region) has been working quite well, really well for the past 20 to 25 years."

Krantz issued a word of caution to the province to be careful what it asks for as "bigger government is not necessarily better government."

"Please leave us alone because things are working well for the Region of Halton," he said.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette pointed to the budget woes the City of Toronto faced after amalgamation - a move that also hit Halton residents as millions in "downloading" costs were levied locally to help the city pay for its services during the financially trying times.

"Amalgamation is not going to save money," he asserted. "The bigger you are, the more you cost."

Oakville Mayor Rob Burton shared details of an email the province sent the local mayors before they were interviewed recently as part of the regional review.

"It (the email) said at the top - the fundamental question is amalgamating," he said. "Let no one be lulled into a sense of passivity. In writing they said it, and in our experi-

Local journalism makes a difference. Support us by registering at theifp.ca



ence, governments usually mean what they say."

The province's review will examine Ontario's eight regional municipalities (Halton, York, Durham, Waterloo, Niagara, Peel, Muskoka District and Oxford County), the County of Simcoe, and their lower-tier municipalities.

The motion passed by regional council will now be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford and all members of provincial parliament, along with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Halton's four local municipalities, the latter of which have all en-

dorsed similar resolutions in recent weeks.

"We are going to send a clear, united message from all of our municipalities that Halton Region is running properly," said regional chair Gary Carr.

"Leave us alone - we're doing a good job. And with all due respect, if other municipalities want to look at us, they can actually learn from us."

STORY BEHIND THE STORY

The province's review will examine Ontario's eight regional municipalities



Notice of Project



**HIGHWAY 7
Ministry of
Transportation**

Contract No. 2018-2021

The Ministry of Transportation has awarded the contract 2018-2021 to Capital Paving Inc. for the rehabilitation of HWY 7 From TANNERS DRIVE N. EASTERLY TO 0.75 Km EAST OF 6th LINE in Town of Halton Hills.

Activities will commence in Spring, 2019 with an estimated completion in Fall, 2019.

Temporary lane closures/delays are expected during the construction period.

For Road Information, phone the Ministry of Transportation toll free, 24 hours a day, at 1-800-268-4686 or visit the Ontario 511 website.

All construction related questions should be addressed to:

Mr. Siavash A. Ghodousi
Contract Administrator
Noveen Engineering Inc.
Tel. (416) 627-2969
Email:
aghodousi@noveeneng.ca

Mr. Matt Martin
Project Supervisor
Capital Paving Inc.
Tel. (519) 244-7170
Email:
mmartin@capitalpaving.on.ca



**Adams
EQUIPMENT**
Your LOCAL Authorized Toro & Stihl Dealer

It's Spring!
Get Ready to Head Outdoors!

**Rentals, Sales &
Service for EVERY need!**

- Tools & Lawn Equipment
- Skidsteers, Excavators & Trenchers
- Light Construction Equipment

TORO STIHL



Visit us for parts or certified
small engine repairs & service.

334 Guelph St. Georgetown • 905-877-0157 • www.adamsequipment.ca
Mon - Fri 7:30 - 6 / Sat 8 - 5

**WE LOVE MEETING
NEW PEOPLE**

New Patients Welcome
Family and Cosmetic Dentistry

Marketplace Dental Centre 877-CARE (2272)



905-877-CARE (2273) • www.georgetowndental.com
Proudly Serving Georgetown Since 1994.

Marketplace Dental Centre
Georgetown Marketplace Mall

HOURS: Monday & Wednesday 8:00am - 8:00pm • Tuesday & Thursday 8:00am - 6:00pm • Saturday 8:00am - 3:00pm