



# Simply Halton

Your Halton  
Connection  
January '05

## At Your Service

### 2004 Regional accomplishments:

- Halton Region recognised as one of Canada's Top 100 Employers
- Burlington Water Purification Plant expanded and upgraded including superior ozonation technology
- Halton Region maintained its AAA Credit Rating
- The 2004-2006 Strategic Plan and the three Standing Committee Operational Plans for 2004-2005 were approved
- Updated the Development Charges By-laws and resolved related appeal
- The purchase of land at Walker's Line and Southampton Blvd. for a new Halton Regional Police Station
- The endorsement of Amendment 25 to the Regional Plan that addresses issues including growth, affordable housing, environmental protection, agriculture and transportation
- The adoption of the Halton Transportation Master Plan that integrates transportation and land use planning to encourage a balance between providing transportation alternatives, protecting the natural environment, enhancing economic competitiveness and fostering a healthy community
- The construction of Post Inn Village Long Term Care Facility in Oakville and Creek Way Village in Burlington
- The opening of ambulance stations in northeast Oakville, Acton and Milton.

## Wishing you health, happiness and peace in 2005 from Halton Regional Council and Staff



BACK ROW: Fred Oliver, Oakville; Mike Lansdown, Oakville; Ron Furik, Milton; John Taylor, Burlington; Barry Lee, Milton. MIDDLE ROW: Joan Loughheed, Burlington; Jane Fogal, Halton Hills; Mike Wallace, Burlington; Clark Somerville, Halton Hills; Jeff Knoll, Oakville; Keith Bird, Oakville; Allan Elgar, Oakville; Jack Dennison, Burlington; Janice Wright, Oakville. FRONT ROW: Carol D'Amelio, Burlington; Ann Mulvale, Mayor, Oakville; Rick Bonnette, Mayor, Halton Hills; Joyce Savoline, Regional Chairman; Gord Krantz, Mayor, Milton; Rob MacIsaac, Mayor, Burlington; Rick Craven, Burlington

### Halton Meetings and Events

Please note that Halton Region's administration offices will be closed from 4:30 p.m. December 23, 2004, until 8:30 a.m. January 3, 2005. However, all of our essential services will remain available. Please contact Access Halton at 905-825-6000 / Toll Free 1-866-442-5866 if you require assistance over the holidays.

#### January Meetings at Regional Headquarters

Jan. 11, 9:30 am – Health and Social Services Committee  
Jan. 11, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm – Flu Clinic, Auditorium  
Jan. 12, 9:30 am – Planning & Public Works Committee  
Jan. 12, 1:30 pm – Administration & Finance Committee

## Halton Regional Council Approves 2005 Budget



Joyce Savoline  
Regional Chairman

As Budget Committee Chair, I am pleased to advise you that Halton Regional Council at its meeting on December 15th, approved the 2005 Operating and Capital Budget with an increase of 2.1 per cent (excluding Police Services) to property taxes and a

rate increase of 8.2 per cent for water and wastewater services.

The 2005 Budget implements previously approved plans including Halton's Water and Wastewater Master Plan, the Transportation Master Plan and our plan to increase the number of long term care facilities owned and operated by the Region.

Provincial and Federal initiatives were instrumental in steering the budget as Halton looked to meet regulatory obligations and service standards. Ongoing budget pressures including infrastructure expansion and roads maintenance, biosolids costs and increased hydro costs also contributed to the increases.

For complete details on Halton's 2005 Budget, please refer to our website, drop by the Halton Regional Centre to pick up a summary or contact Access Halton at 905-825-6000 or toll free 1-866-442-5866 to request that a package be sent to you or to speak to someone in our Finance Division.

The 2005 Budget reflects Halton's ongoing commitment to fiscal accountability ensuring our triple AAA credit rating remains intact while maintaining the level of programs and services that our residents expect. My congratulations to staff and Council for their time and attention to detail that has resulted in a fair, responsible and responsive budget, that is once again below the rate of inflation.

## Budget Direction for 2005

Our goal in developing the 2005 Budget was to ensure the health and safety of Halton residents – and the financial sustainability of our community. We relied on Halton's Strategic Plan, which sets out our goals for the next three



A. Brent Marshall  
Chief Administrative Officer

Our waste management team will be hard at work over the holiday season ensuring your waste is collected from the curb or roadside. Since Christmas and New Year's Day both fall on Saturdays this year, **there is no change to your waste collection day** during December or January. Providing uninterrupted waste collection is simply part of our service commitment to you.

The holiday season often generates a higher volume of waste per household, but minimizing Halton's waste and the

amount that ends up in our landfill is a year round activity. Thanks to your diligence and environmental stewardship, we have been able to divert more than 40% of residential waste collected from our landfill site. Part of our commitment is to communicate with you frequently so that together we can ensure a strong waste management program now and for decades to come.

### Priorities driving the tax supported 2005 Budget include:

- \$2.6 million to open the Region's two new long-term care facilities, Post Inn Village in Oakville, scheduled to open in early January, and Creek Way Village in Burlington, scheduled to open in late spring
- \$1.4 million to support Waste Management, which includes the introduction of an Organics collection demonstration program to increase our diversion rate and protect capacity in our landfill
- \$1.2 million to support the Regional Roads and Bridges program, which includes increased provisions for winter conditions and maintenance
- \$993,000 to Ambulance Services to ensure adequate staffing, cover increased vehicle operating costs and open the Corporate Drive Station at Creek Way Village Emergency Medical Services Facility in Burlington

### Priorities driving the rate supported 2005 Budget include:

- \$4.5 million to the Region's Capital program, which includes upgrades to water and sewage plants
- \$2.2 million to support the Biosolids program
- \$1.4 million to cover increased hydro costs to operate the Region's water and sewage plants

## Halton in History

The roots of the Christmas card can be found in the inscribed tokens which Egyptians sent to one another at mid-winter and in the pictorial cards made from woodcuts and copper plate engravings of the Middle Ages. But the Christmas card in its present-day form is a relative newcomer to the holiday scene. Advances in cheaper printing techniques and the institution of the penny post made the development of the Christmas card inevitable. Early cards in the 1860s and 1870s were often re-worked versions of visiting cards with the addition of specially prepared stickers. As the century drew to a close, cards became more and more exotic and sported silk fringes,

gilding, scented padding and dried flowers, and were often distributed by drapers because so many contained cloth.

Postcard donated to the museum by Mrs. J.C. Henry of Kilbride, Ontario in 1973. Sent to Master J.C. Henry of Georgetown. Postmark is stamped Toronto, Dec 24 at 10 a.m., 1913. Inscription reads: "I am sure Santa has something in his sack for a good boy like you J.C. and I hope you may have a very Merry Xmas. Luella."



Courtesy of Halton Region Museum Collection

## Making It Simple: Uninterrupted Waste Collection

The Waste Management Calendar, an essential piece of our communication strategy, will be distributed in January. These calendars not only tell you when and where to put your waste for collection, but also offer valuable tips and act as a great resource when you have a question relating to our waste program. While all collection zones remain the same for 2005, the calendar is still a great addition to your fridge or wall for quick and convenient access to Regional information.

Going into 2005, our Strategic Plan will focus on updating Halton's waste management strategy to meet current and future needs. Bottom line, we need to continue to work in partnership to preserve our environment and ensure a long life for our landfill.

We welcome your feedback. Contact Access Halton at [accesshalton@region.halton.on.ca](mailto:accesshalton@region.halton.on.ca)  
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