



**KRINGLE KISS:** Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh played Santa at the Acton Seniors' Centre - delivering a cheque for \$4,000 - on Friday and was richly rewarded by Centre president Donna Rowley (left) and Centre treasurer Marion Storey. - Frances Niblock photo

## Halton gets silver medal for private/public partnership

Halton Region and its private sector partner, D'Orazio-Walter, were awarded the Silver Medal for outstanding achievement in Canadian public-private partnerships at the annual Canadian Council National Conference Awards ceremony held in Toronto.

The Silver Award for Project Financing, the second highest award given, was presented to Halton Region in Recognition of the innovative public-private partnerships for the design-build and front-end funding components of the Halton Urban Structure Plan (HUSP). The partnership represents a \$79 million infrastructure investment which will provide water and wastewater services for 6,200 new homes and nearly 700 acres of prime industrial land in Halton.

The Canadian council for Public-Private partnerships was formed in 1993 as a non-partisan, non-profit body

aimed at promoting partnerships between the public and private sectors. The Council is chaired by Michael Wilson, former Federal Minister of Finance.

"We are very pleased by this national recognition of our achievement," said Halton Region's Chief Administrative Officer, Brent Marshall.

## Chudleigh introduces bill

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh has introduced a bill into the Ontario Legislature requiring all official provincial government functions in which wine is served, to provide only Ontario made wines which meet the standards of Ontario's Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA).

"The VQA standard was set up to help up to help Ontario wines compete internationally," said Mr. Chudleigh. "The VQA standards are the same as exist in many European countries. It seems logical to me that the Ontario government should promote products from Ontario when the opportunity arises."

Among other requirements all Ontario VQA wines must be made with 100 per cent Ontario grown grapes. The VQA program was first established in Ontario in 1988. British Columbia followed with a matching VQA program in 1999.

"Ontario wines have won international awards, however they still face important restrictions in Europe," said Mr. Chudleigh. "This proposed legislation is a signal that Ontarians are unhappy with import restrictions given that our wines are among the

best in the world." The United States also has a similar program, which was started in 1978.



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