

HALTON REGION FINANCIAL

A Message from Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline

I am pleased to present Halton Region's 2000 Annual Report.

For the residents of Halton Region, the services the regional government provides are at the very centre of what is important to our communities. These services include safe drinking water, safe disposal of our wastewater, growth management, health programs, social assistance, police and ambulance services, waste collection and recycling, and protection of rural areas.

While it's important to us that you know about the variety of services and programs we provide to our community, we also think it's important that you know how your property taxes are spent on these Regional services. That's why every year we develop a financial report for our residents and businesses.

As Chairman of Halton Region I am pleased to report the financial results for the year 2000. Below are highlights of the important work that the Region has been undertaking.

Halton's financial position continues to remain one of the strongest among Ontario municipalities as evidenced by our Triple A bond rating. Achieving a Triple A rating reaffirms our financial health and allows us to deal with various financial pressures and growth challenges by borrowing money at the best possible rates.

Our long-term debt is at its lowest point in 24 years and we have continued our unbroken string of surpluses since 1981. This year's surplus was \$7.6 million and was generated through increased economic growth and careful control over spending.

In 1998, the provincial government transferred the financial responsibility for a variety of services in Halton. In 2000, the Region began to take significant steps to assume control for the delivery of some of these services:

AMBULANCE

In August, the Region assumed the operations of Land Ambulance Services in Halton. We have taken immediate steps to expand this service which has not seen any new resources since 1985 despite our tremendous population growth. Additional service improvements will be made in 2001.

SOCIAL HOUSING

In the fall, the province announced the transfer of ownership of the Halton Housing Authority to the Region effective January 1, 2001. The Halton Housing Authority is the largest social housing provider in Halton. In April 2001 Council approved the amalgamation of the Halton Housing Authority with the Region's own Halton Non-Profit Housing Corporation in an effort to strengthen both operations and to better protect the significant capital investments these corporations have made. The

amalgamation was completed by September 1, 2001, with a new name: Halton Community Housing Corporation.

WATER

There have been several news stories about the declining state of public infrastructure and the financial challenges it presents. On the water and wastewater front, we have risen to the challenge. Halton has long recognized that providing water services is a sacred public trust that can only be protected through action and investment. We continue to invest in more testing, the latest technologies and upgrades to our existing system in order to improve our infrastructure and preserve that trust.

We are more than halfway through our cast-iron water main replacement program, completing 80 kilometres. This will address aesthetic concerns, and improve public safety by dramatically improving water flows for fire fighting purposes.

Council recently approved water rate increases that will allow us to begin installing state-of-the-art ozonation disinfection systems at our water treatment plant in Burlington to eliminate taste and odour concerns and to improve water quality. The plant upgrades will be completed by 2003, and in the coming years, a similar project will take place in Oakville.

SENIORS SERVICES

The Region has also responded to the challenges raised by an ageing population. The Region received approval from the Province to build a 225-bed long-term care facility in Oakville and construction will start later this year and is expected to open in 2003. A second 144-bed long-term care facility in Burlington is expected to open in 2004.

We have made great strides in providing and in some cases enhancing our services and programs. You can be assured that Council and Regional staff will make every effort to maintain our record of success well into the future.



Joyce Savoline
Chairman, Halton Region

SCHEDULE OF CURRENT FUND OPERATIONS

(\$000's)	2000		1999		COST PER HOUSEHOLD (\$185,000 assessed value)	
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	2000	1999	
EXPENDITURE						
FUNDED BY PROPERTY TAXES						
General government	\$ 18,321	\$ 17,282	\$ 18,929	\$ 69.15	\$ 68.69	
Social services	111,444	103,074	104,471	254.28	260.98	
Social housing	35,035	33,292	34,722	195.21	204.55	
Protection to persons and property	49,410	48,033	45,912	290.87	281.65	
Health services	18,251	17,432	14,611	45.46	39.54	
Roadways & GO Transit	14,057	12,820	9,845	118.77	118.28	
Planning & development	2,120	2,035	2,036	9.51	10.20	
Recreation & cultural services	733	714	735	3.79	3.76	
Waste management	13,295	13,190	12,899	100.63	100.73	
FUNDED BY USER RATES						
Water/wastewater	41,142	36,863	34,785	415.38	406.89	
Total expenditure	303,808	284,735	278,945	\$ 1,503.05	\$1,495.27	
REVENUE						
Property taxes - General Purpose	\$174,870	\$ 181,216	\$176,309			
Property taxes - Solid Waste	15,077	15,070	14,617			
Water/wastewater billings	66,435	62,485	65,699			
Solid waste disposal/diversion fees	2,354	2,392	2,314			
Ontario grants	72,752	67,208	68,980			
Other revenue	19,020	18,827	22,643			
Total revenue	350,508	347,198	350,562			
Excess revenue over expenditure	46,700	62,463	71,617			
Net financing and transfers	(46,700)	(54,881)	(57,321)			
Surplus for the year	\$ —	\$ 7,582	\$ 14,296			

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(\$000's)	2000	1999
Assets		
Financial assets	\$ 331,567	\$ 348,503
Physical assets	1,247	1,180
	332,814	349,683
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and benefits payable	84,213	68,926
Net long term liabilities	37,579	37,800
Deferred revenue	30,424	41,321
	152,216	148,047
Total Net Assets	180,598	201,636
Municipal Position		
Capital fund	\$ 100,040	\$ 129,227
Reserves	96,650	87,008
Reserve funds	31,567	30,685
Fund Balances	228,257	246,920
Amounts to be recovered		
From reserves and reserve funds on hand	(5,769)	(5,827)
From future reserves	(41,890)	(39,457)
Municipal Position	\$ 180,598	\$ 201,636

Note: 1999 and 2000 figures restated in accordance with PSAB.

Copies of the 2000 Consolidated Financial Statements audited by KPMG from which these highlights were extracted are available from the Corporate Services Department upon request by calling 905-825-6000 or toll free 1-866-4-HALTON (1-866-442-5866) extension 7042. You may also visit our website at www.region.halton.on.ca.

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