

Region gets Triple A credit rating again

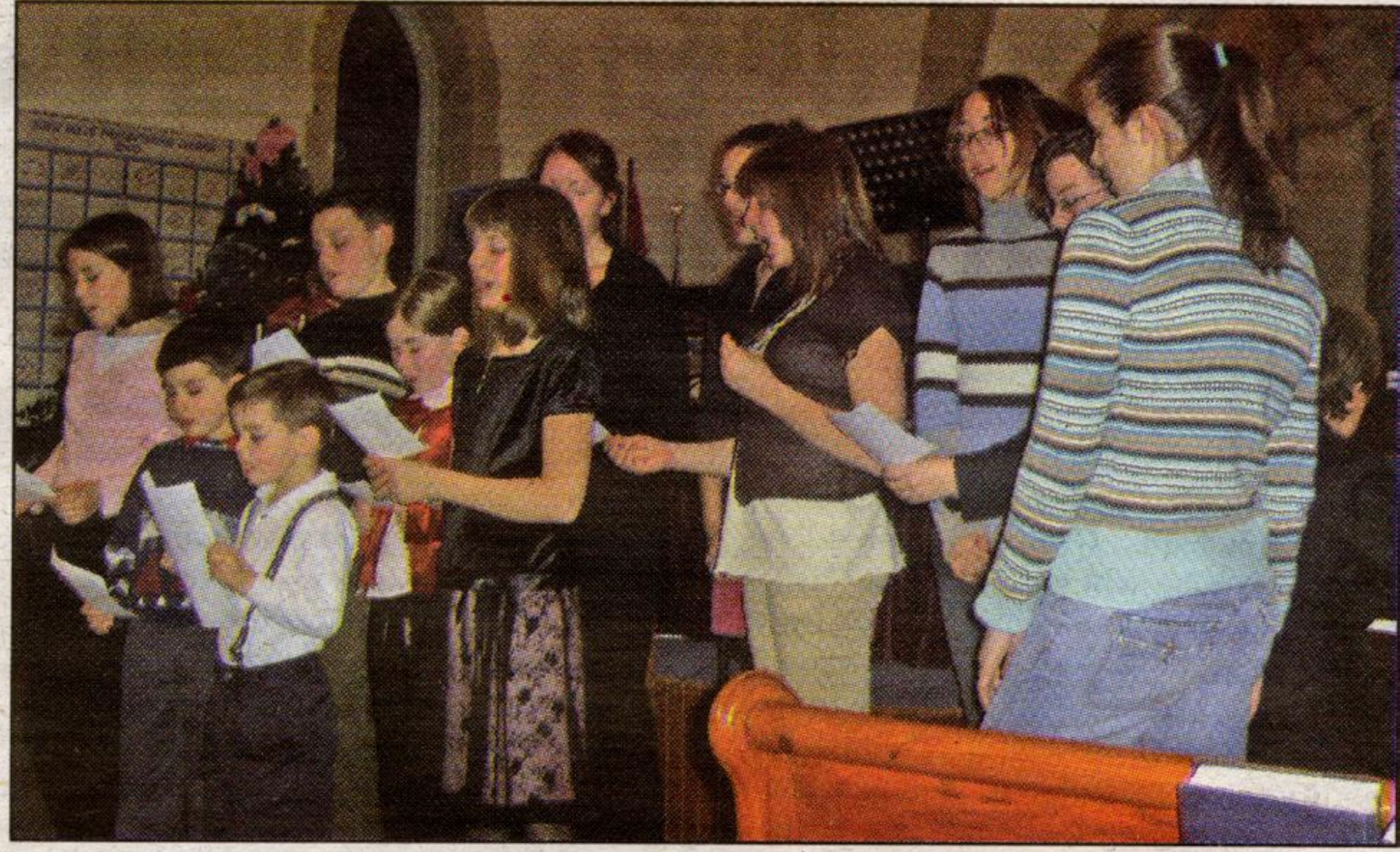
Standard & Poor's Rating Services recently reaffirmed Halton Region's AAA credit rating based on the agency's 2005 annual review.

Standard & Poor's is the second independent agency this year to review Halton's credit rating; Moody's Investor Service announced

in April 2005 that it would continue to rate Halton as AAA.

Halton Region has maintained an AAA credit for 16 consecutive years, recognized as a significant achievement for a regional municipality. Halton was one of only seven Canadian municipalities to receive an AAA credit rating from Standard & Poor's.

The AA credit rating is the highest rating available to any issuer of long-term debt



HOLIDAY SOUNDS: Students of Rockwood music teacher Debbie Tilson filled the Eden Mills Presbyterian Church with sounds of carols and holiday favourites at the annual Christmas concert on Sunday. — Frances Niblock photo

New Year's Eve Dance
with **Steve Dunn**
Saturday, Dec. 31, 2005
9p.m. to 1a.m.
Buffet, Party Favours
Free local shuttle bus
Tickets now on sale at the bar
\$25 per person
Acton Legion
15 Wright Ave. Acton

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in North America. Achieving and retaining this credit rating has allowed the Region, the City of Burlington and Towns of Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville, to borrow funds at the lowest possible interest rates.

"Standard and Poor's rating reflects Halton's sound financial position and it also reflects the stability and strong financial management of our local municipalities," said Joyce Savoline, Regional Chairman. "Halton residents can have confidence in our strong fiscal management which is based on responsible policies and realistic practices. As always, our budgets

are built around maintaining the safety of the Halton community while upholding the quality of life we all enjoy." Standard & Poor's attributes Halton Region's top rating to "very strong economic fundamentals and a tradition of financial prudence". In recognizing the Region's plans to increase its debt load in the next few years to fund large capital infrastructure projects, the agency noted that since the majority of the funding will come from internal cash reserves, the Region is expected to remain a strong net creditor.

"With two recognized credit agencies affirming our

financial practices, Halton is able to continue investing responsibly in our infrastructure to ensure the safety of our water, manage our roads network and prepare for technologies to effectively manage our waste," said Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer. "Halton has consistently proven itself as a well managed, fiscally solid organization as is evident not only by this rating, but also our 2005 ranking as a Top 100 employer and the world class designation achieved by our customer call centre."

Standard & Poor's reported that "the Region's economic advantages and performance are solid, and prospects for the future look very good".

"To a great extent, our AAA credit rating is the result of the long-term perspective Halton takes in its financial planning," said Jane MacCaskill, Commissioner Corporate Services. "This strategy allows us to proactively deal with financial pressures and challenges and is great news for all residents of Halton."

Staff Names, left to Right: Reg Marsh, Marlene Marsh, April Fountain & Elaine Daamen

The Staff of Reg Marsh & Associates would like to send a Special Thank you to all Individuals and Businesses for another successful year in 2005. As we begin a new season in 2006, our Accounting/Tax Preparation firm is here to work for you. Our goal is to guarantee you the best positive results. We look forward to serving you in this new Tax Season and throughout the New year. For your convenience, we are here year round to serve you.

THANK YOU
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year in 2006

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette & Council

Wishes Everyone A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas
—The New Tanner

Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas & a Prosperous New Year!

HOLIDAY HOURS:
Closed Mon. & Tues. Dec. 26 & 27
RE-OPEN
Wednesday Dec. 28th at 8am.

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