

Business

Region among top 100 employers

Halton Region was recently named one of Canada's top 100 employers, earning a spot in a book and a mention in Maclean's magazine.

The decision was made by Mediagroup Canada Inc., a job-hunting periodical publisher that puts out an annual book entitled Canada's Top 100 Employers.

"Halton Region was singled out this year for a couple of reasons," said book editor Richard Yerema. "They have maternity top-up payments, as well as a daycare centre minutes away from the office."

He added that other things that made Halton stand out are its on-site fitness facilities, intramural sports, three weeks paid vacation in the first year and float days.

"It's very gratifying to realize that, as Halton Region celebrates our 30th anniversary, we have been recognized as an employer of choice in Canada," Regional Chair Joyce Savoline said.

"This enviable status will continue to help us to attract and retain the very best people for our workforce— people that are skilled professionals and people who are leaders in their fields who possess exemplary customer service skills which are critical in the public sector."

Halton currently has more than 1,700 staff members that range from public health nurses to business development officers.

The region was up against 6,000 companies across the country for the coveted position and was assessed on things like performance management, training and skills development.

"Our staff value the investment that has been made in their on-going training and development and in the tools and infrastructure that enable them to provide the very best service," Halton CAO Brent Marshall said. "It is exciting to have Halton's position as a progressive employer recognized. This will help us to continue to attract the kind of employees who value a workplace where they are challenged and given the support needed to serve the very best of their abilities."

One of those employees is Communications Specialist Jill Attack, who's worked at the region for the past 30 years.

She said Halton provides opportunities for training and advancement, making it a great place to work.

"They challenge us to do our very best in customer service, but they give us the tools we need to do that," she said.

Attack truly has advanced through the region. She started off as a stenographer in the legal department in 1974 and has worked her way up to her current position.

She prepared the application for the region to be considered as one of the country's top employers and said she wasn't surprised that the region ranked high on the list.

Community Relations Director Carleen Carroll has been a regional employee for about three-and-a-half years and noted that one of the reasons Halton is a top employer is the flexibility it provides its staff.

"There's a real commitment to helping people have some balance in their lives," she said, adding that, for example, employees can choose to work from home.

—By Melanie Hennessey, special

Jack and Ruth Gudgeon Celebrating 60 Years

November 4, 1944



4 Children - Jack (Pat), Ann (David), Mary (Michael), Susan (Steven),
10 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren

Guide to the Outdoors

Julie Pomeroy

Halloween's origins date back 2000 years to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). Nov. 1 marked the New Year. It was the end of summer harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, which was often associated with human death. On the night before New Years, on Oct. 31, the Celts believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. They celebrated by wearing costumes and telling fortunes. OOooo. We wish you a safe and scary Halloween ... but not too scary. Safety should always come first! Have the kids carry a light. We stock light sticks, flashlights and headlights in the store. Have fun.

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