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More than \$1M needed in '05 to cover regional council's cost

More than \$1 million was spent last year to cover regional council members' salaries, benefits and other expenses.

A staff report presented to the Region's administration and finance committee last Wednesday details what each councillor was paid in 2005, plus how much was spent on conferences and mileage.

It says the 20 members of council and Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline received a total of \$965,879 in salaries and benefits. That total does not include expenses and remuneration for various regional boards and committees.

Savoline topped the list at \$176,456, while councillors' salaries ranged from \$36,566 to \$40,120.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette earned \$39,907 in salary and benefits and claimed \$1,990 for conference expenses and \$1,470 for car mileage and other expenses.

Wards 1 and 2 Regional Councillor Clark Somerville earned \$39,881 in salary and benefits, claimed no conference expenses and \$2,156 in car mileage and other expenses. As a member of the Halton Regional Police Services board, Somerville also claimed \$1,640 for conference expenses and \$348 for car mileage and other expenses.

Wards 3 and 4 Regional Councillor Jane Fogal earned \$39,881 in salary and benefits, and claimed \$1,441 in conference expenses and \$2,015 in car mileage and other expenses.

Local Halton Hills councillors, Bryan



JOYCE SAVOLINE

Lewis and Bob Inglis, representatives on Conservation Halton received \$800 and \$400 honorarium respectively. Inglis also claimed \$302 in car mileage and other expenses while Lewis claimed \$348. Halton Hills councillor Joan Robson, a representative on Credit Valley Conservation received a \$931 honorarium and claimed \$351 in car mileage and other expenses.

Thirteen council members spent \$30,036 on attending conferences.

Milton Wards 1 and 3 Councillor Barry Lee received \$6,377 of that, since he went to China last year to take part in an agricultural study group.

Most councillors' conference claims fell in the \$1,000 to \$4,000 range, while Oakville Councillor Mike Lansdown only spent \$700 and Burlington Councillor Rick Craven, \$45.

And a little over \$15,000 was dished out to council members for mileage and other expenses.

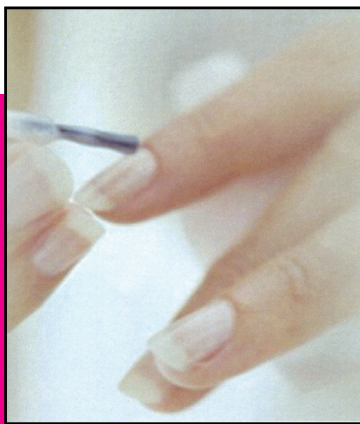
The report also outlines committee and board remuneration and expenses for 2005, which were: ecological and environmental advisory committee, \$688, agricultural advisory committee, \$124, Halton Regional Police Services Board, \$54,976, and conservation authorities, \$32,708. Oakville Councillor Allan Elgar also received \$3,846 for sitting on the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

—By Melanie Hennessey, special with files by Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

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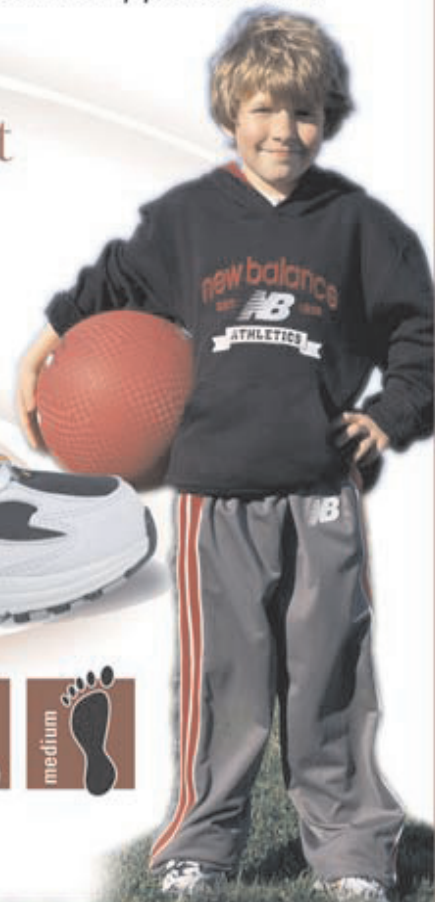
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