

Budget focuses on priorities, services

On January 24, Halton Regional Council approved the 2007 budget and business plan. Through council's leadership and input from the community, we have prepared a financial plan that focuses on key priorities and commitments to service delivery, because we know many of Halton's residents rely on regional programs and services.

The approved 2007 operating and capital budget resulted in a property tax increase of 0.9% (or \$7.44 for a typical homeowner) for regional programs and services. The budget increase for Halton Regional Police Services is 5.9%. The combined property tax impact for regional and police services is 2.5% (or \$29.76 for a typical homeowner). The budget also includes a 4.0% (or \$26.17 for a typical homeowner) rate increase for water and sewer utilities.

The major initiatives driving the 2007 budget focus on both the physical and social infrastructure of our community, including the following:

- Provide affordable and accessible housing—\$2.7 million in capital expenditures to implement the first phase of the Region's Comprehensive Housing Strategy, to create 120 units of assisted rental housing.
- Manage Halton's growth—\$2 million in capital costs to develop Halton's Response to the Places to Grow Plan (Durable Halton), which will result in a long-term planning vision for Halton.
- Improve quality of regional roads—by increasing road repair and resurfacing expenditures by an additional \$1.7 million in one-time funding.
- Improve community access—\$776,540 in gross expenditures to implement 211 and 311 telephone service.

Gary Carr



• Support vulnerable citizens— an additional \$400,000 to improve the quality of life for residents of Halton's domiciliary hostels, for those affected by mental health illnesses and requiring ongoing care.

GTA pooling was a major consideration during budget deliberations. The Province requires Halton to provide funding to help offset costs for the City of Toronto, for providing social assistance and social housing to their residents. This GTA pooling transfer payment, mandated by the Province in 1998, was intended to be temporary. For Halton residents, GTA pooling is the second largest program in the regional tax budget after the Halton Regional Police Service. On January 24, regional council voted to freeze 2007 GTA pooling payments at the 2006 actual funding level of approximately \$41.2 million. This will help send a strong message to the Province to address the pooling issue and find an equitable solution for all GTA municipalities.

The 2007 budget is a realistic plan built on the solid financial planning practices for which the Region continues to be recognized. For more information on the 2007 budget and business plan, visit www.halton.ca.

—Gary Carr is the chair of Halton Region

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Get Involved and Help Build a Future for Halton's Past

The Halton Museum Foundation is currently seeking Directors

A registered charitable organization, the Museum Foundation was formed in 1998 to support Museum projects and provide an active volunteer resource base. Monthly meetings are held in the evening.

The Foundation assists the Museum in:

- Special events and fundraising activities
- Increasing awareness of the Museum
- Creating support within the community

Applications are available online at www.halton.ca/museum or for pick up at:

Halton Region 1151 Bronte Rd. Oakville	or	Halton Region Museum RR#3 (in Kelso Conservation Area), Milton
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For more information about Foundation Membership, contact 905-875-2200. Applications should be submitted by March 30, 2007.

The Halton Region Museum is a year-round facility located in Kelso Conservation Area in Milton. It promotes an appreciation for and understanding of Halton's natural and cultural heritage. Activities include: special events, educational programs, exhibitions, facility rentals, research services and artifact collections management.

BUILDING A FUTURE

FOR HALTON'S PAST

HALTON REGION MUSEUM

BEST BUY CORRECTION NOTICE

To our valued customers: We apologize for any inconvenience caused by an error in our flyer dated: February 09 - February 15.

Product: Rockford Fosgate / P210S4 / 400-Watt 10" Subwoofer. On page 19 of the February 9th flyer we advertised this item as being \$19.99 save \$50, when in fact it is \$119.99 Save \$50. SKU: 10040196

BEST BUY CORRECTION NOTICE

To our valued customers: We apologize for any inconvenience caused by an error in our flyer dated: February 09 - February 15.

Product: Microsoft Vista Ultimate Upgrade. On page PO2 of the February 9th flyer we advertised this product at \$199.99 when in fact it is 299.99. SKU: 10083618/10083403 FR

Correction Notice:

A misprint appeared in the Wallace Pontiac advertisement in the February 7th, 2007 edition of **The Independent & Free Press.**

The descriptions should have read:

2006 GMC Sierra 1SX - 2 wheel drive, longbase, standard.
 2006 Cadillac SRX - rear wheel drive.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our loyal customers and appreciate your understanding.

Wallace

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801

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