

# Six ballots give mayors police commission seats

**By Bob Burt**  
Regional Council Reporter  
Halton Regional Council has become notorious for its inability to cope with procedural wrangles but council's effort to appoint two members to the Halton Board of Police Commissioners has to rate among the greatest of the region's fiascos to date.

It took council six ballots and some highly irregular practice to have Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett and Burlington Mayor George Harrington reappointed as police commissioners.

The first ballot was destroyed and not counted after some members voted for only one name — instead of two, as instructed. The second ballot showed Barrett with 14 votes, Harrington 10 and Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill, Milton Councillor Jim Watson and Oakville Councillor Bill Mason with eight votes each.

## New headquarters

### Hiring architect called premature

Halton Regional Council will not select an architect for the region's new administration headquarters until the building and site committee present tentative plans about what is to be housed in the new building and the approximate space required. Council

rejected a motion that would see an architect chosen for the project.

Councillor Terry Mannell explained that choosing a firm now would not subject the council to any expense but would allow some of the preliminary work to be done in advance. He suggested an architect should be chosen now and should be involved in the early decisions that have to be made.

Committee chairman Tom Hill told council his committee hoped to know which other government agencies would want to be housed in the building and which site to recommend early in December.

Several councillors argued the move to select an architect was premature. Some suggested the landscape of the site eventually chosen and the agencies to be housed should be known before an architect is chosen.

The site committee is still considering four sites.

could be improved this year. Bill Hourigan and Judge W. K. Warrender of Burlington and Glenn Magnusson of Halton Hills are provincial appointees to the commission for three year terms. Each of the three are citizen appointees as opposed to elected officials. Milton remains the only area in the region that is not represented on the commission.

According to Mayor Barrett, Solicitor-General George Kerr is currently considering legislation that would see the four Halton mayors become members of the commission.

The region's administration committee in the past has suggested that in no way should the commission become a committee of council. Members of that committee expressed a desire to keep the commission free from political influence.



SANTA CLAUS is coming to town and just to get into the spirit of it all and be ready to parade, a group of youngsters have been meeting at the home of Cinda Richardson decorating the "present" boxes they'll be decked out in. Exuberantly shouting for Santa are Joni McLean, Amy Richardson, Michelle Miron, Kristin Kerr, Matthew Hayward, Joni McLean and Kathy Verstraete. The local parade is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 30 and floats and entries are welcome.

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## WOMEN AT WORK

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While there are apparently several ways of breaking the tie, most procedures would have seen a special ballot for the three candidates tied for low position. The lowest would drop out of the contest and the remaining four would be back in the race, with one dropping off after each ballot.

Instead Barrett was named as a commissioner and the voting continued with the four others. That could have had a potential effect on the outcome, as those voting for Barrett in the first round were then free to swing their second vote to someone else.

Mason was bumped on the third ballot, Hill on the fourth, Watson and Harrington then tied on the fifth ballot.

Chairman Masson was then advised by solicitor Noel Bates that he was not entitled to cast a deciding vote between the two. In fact Bates said that Masson had no business even being in the chair. The procedural by-law says the regional chairman shall not preside over committee of the whole sessions.

In regular council however, the chairman does have the right and must vote to break a tie. Council adjourned its committee of the whole session and went into council.

At that point a sixth vote was called and this time someone switched support from Watson to Harrington, giving the Burlington Mayor a 13-11 margin and freeing Masson from having to choose between the two men.

Both Oakville Councillor Terry Mannell and Burlington Councillor Paul Preston suggested the procedure that was being followed was incorrect but the show went on.


Following the meeting Watson agreed the matter had been poorly handled but said he would not challenge the proceedings.

Each councillor spoke for two minutes in an attempt to


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