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Photo by RON KUZYK

Joyce Savoline (second from left) celebrates victory with her family (from left) husband Ron, daughter Natasha, daughter-in-law Becky and son Robb.

Mandate clear: chair

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are Burlington residents.

Ms Savoline, a Burlington city councillor for 12 straight years prior to her elevation as regional chair in 1994, offered no comment about her opponents. The chair's position pays a salary of \$74,734, as of January 2000, one-third of it tax free.

As for her pre-election goals, she said she didn't have specific voter percentage expectations in mind and didn't view the relatively low 51 per cent support she received in Oakville, home of the regional mal/informal arrangement." headquarters, as a negative comment about her or council.

"I'm not a bit disappointed. I have a clear mandate," she said of the results. "I didn't know what to expect because this is the first time for the (chair) vote.

"We deliver the kind of service (water, garbage, recycling, etc.) that is done quietly, but this (vote) has put us in front of the people and three years from now we'll know what they think of the job we've done."

Settling into her renewed role, Ms Savoline was eager to talk about a new partnership involving Halton that will emphasize trade links and improved and expanded transportation routes.

She said more details would be forthcoming but noted Halton is joining forces with Hamilton-Wentworth and Niagara regions in an association called the Bi-National Trade Alliance.

The three southern Ontario regions will link up with government and business officials in the upstate New York counties of Erie, Monroe and Niagara.

"We are going to create an economic region and a force to be reckoned with," said Ms Savoline. "It will be more of a for-

Members of the Canadian contingent have committed \$50,000 each initially, with word of American interest and Ontario government involvement to be announced soon, she said.

The regional chair said Halton must maintain and improve ties with the other Greater Toronto Area communities but that it can't put blinkers on the future.

"We sit on the Greater Toronto Services Board (dealing with transportation issues like GO Transit) but we're not going to convince anybody with just eight votes out of 110," said Ms Savoline."There are no borders anymore. We are not isolated or insular. We need economic and trade solutions."

