

# Citizens' task force will review pay for regional councillors

*Task force will be made up of citizens from across the region, and is expected to be put together within a month*

By **JASON MISNER**

*The Champion*

Halton regional council's salaries will be put under the microscope for the first time in about seven years.

A citizens' task force, expected to be formed within a month, will decide what the salary of the regional chair and a regional councillor should be.

Currently, the chair earns \$76,000 annually, and a councillor more than \$21,600.

Council must vote on salary changes.

Halton Region CEO Brent Marshall will lead the way in determining what the task force will look like and what the criteria will be. He will consult with the four municipalities to come up with a list of citizens.

Burlington and Halton Hills, for example, have gone through a pay review, called remuneration, and Mr. Marshall wants to get input to ensure consistency.

Regional council voted unanimously Wednesday in favour of the task force. The decision to create it came after councillors voted to keep their salaries one-third tax free at its December 11 council meeting.

Potential salary changes would be in place for the upcoming term since municipal elections will be held this November.

Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline said it's a good time to review council's pay and it needs to involve the public.

She didn't want to comment on the issue of pay and risk prejudicing the task force. But she said regional council's workload has increased over the last few years.

Ms Savoline said council is dealing with a lot of complex environmental, growth and transportation issues, for example.

"There are a lot of things happening now," she said.

Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale said she agrees that a salary review of politicians needs public input.

She said "fair representation" is essential for the task force to work properly.

lors more than \$40,000, but it's all 100 per cent taxable.

According to the provincial Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, there are approximately 30 municipalities in Ontario that have a regional government structure, commonly called a two-tiered system. Some of those regions include York, Peel, Durham, Waterloo, Muskoka, Niagara and Oxford.

"That is the real key," she said.

Regional council salaries vary in Ontario. In Peel Region, the chair earns more than \$132,000 per year and council-



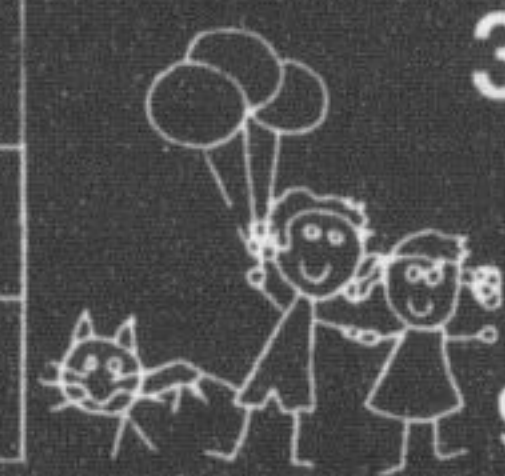
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The "member at large" must have the following qualifications:

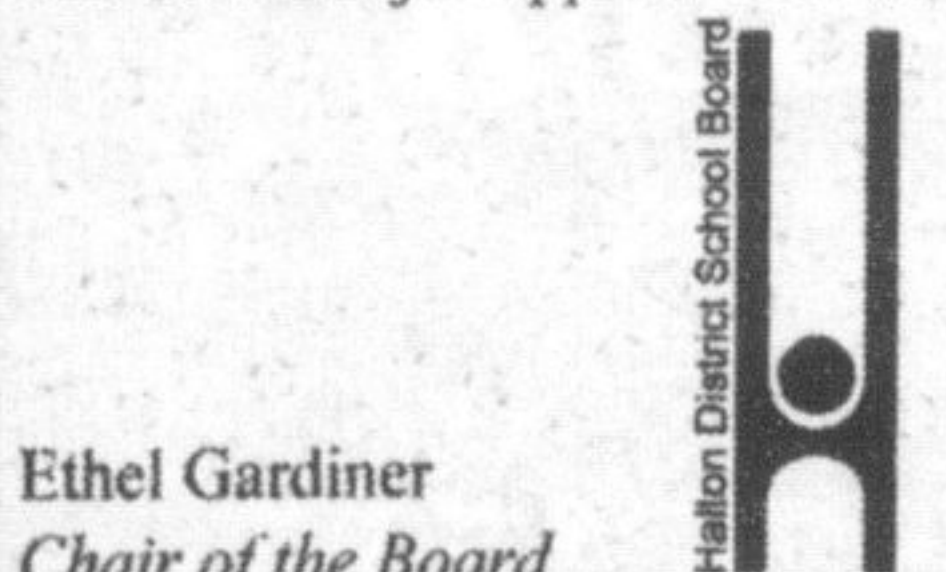
- a Canadian citizen of the age of 18 years or older
- a resident within the jurisdiction of the Halton District School Board, and
- a public school supporter

A Board employee is not eligible for appointment.

Interested community members should submit their application (resumé) with a letter indicating what strengths they would bring to this position, to:

Dusty Papke, Director of Education  
Halton District School Board  
2050 Guelph Line, PO Box 5005  
Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Z2

The deadline for applications is Friday, January 31, 2003.



Ethel Gardiner  
Chair of the Board

Dusty Papke, Ed.D.  
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