

Region water facility named after retired engineer

By **WILMA BLOKUIS**

Special to *The Champion*

Halton Region, as part of its 30th anniversary celebrations, has honoured Bruce Kitchen, one of its retired engineers.

Regional Chair Joyce Savoline dedicated the purified water storage and pumping facility at 3050 Upper Middle Rd. by officially naming it the Kitchen Reservoir.

Built approximately six years ago under Mr. Kitchen's supervision, the facility holds approximately six million gallons of water in two underground concrete cells, and pumps the purified water to parts of Halton. It was originally built to store water for fire protection.

Mr. Kitchen was also responsible for the development of Halton's state-of-the-art landfill site and was recognized as Engineer of the Year by the Hamilton-Burlington Professional Engineers in 1999 for engineering \$1 billion of infrastructure.

Mr. Kitchen retired in April last year as director of engineering services after 34 years of employment with Halton. Previously, Mr. Kitchen, a Burlington resident, worked at a consulting firm in Toronto for four years.

The naming of the former Upper Middle Road Reservoir in Mr. Kitchen's honour was announced at his retirement party held last year.

"It's lovely, and a complete — a huge — surprise," he said of the announcement and Thursday's dedication.

"I'm deeply grateful to be honoured in this way. I feel both proud and thrilled to be placed in the company of others who have been honoured."

Similarly recognized were Bob Moore of Oakville, Halton's commissioner of public works from 1975 to 1990, the late Bob Bailey, Halton's first commissioner of public works, and the late Ed Washburn of the Burlington Public



Photo by RON KUZYK

Halton Regional Chair Joyce Savoline presents former Director of Engineering Services for Halton Region Bruce Kitchen with a plaque in his honour that will adorn the Upper Middle Road Reservoir — now officially called the Kitchen Reservoir. The reservoir was dedicated to recognize the 34 years of service to Halton Region by Mr. Kitchen, who was responsible for Halton's state-of-the-art landfill site and was the Hamilton/Burlington Professional Engineers choice for Engineer of the Year in 1999.

Utilities Commission — all of them former colleagues of Kitchen "and people I respect."

Mr. Kitchen added he's pleased the Upper

Middle Road facility was named after him as it is "the hub and the heart of our water supply system supplying parts of Halton's four municipali-

ties, proof that Halton is indeed a partnership that works."

Using the title of a popular Josh Groban song, Mr. Kitchen said, "You raised me up and carried me on your shoulders for 34 years — you are the best."

Mr. Kitchen was hired by the former Halton County in 1969 as the assistant engineer, and remained when Halton Region was formed in 1974.

"With an impressive 34 years of service with us under his belt, Bruce impacted the lives of our residents in many, many ways," said Ms Savoline in dedicating the facility as the Kitchen Reservoir.

"Halton is recognized for our state-of-the-art landfill site — some people still call it the dump but at \$50 million, it's state-of-the-art. We worked long and hard to create a landfill that would serve our communities for years to come, while protecting our environment through sound environmental practices, and creating opportunities for extensive reuse and recycling programs. Halton is one of the best in the GTA and well above the provincial average.

"Bruce Kitchen was the engineer behind the creation of our made-in-Halton solution to our waste management issues. This landfill has doubled its lifespan thanks to the hard work of Halton residents and staff, and the sound engineering principles that Bruce used in its creation."

Ms Savoline credited Mr. Kitchen as being among the individuals who helped form Halton, "and I'm honoured to recognize his accomplishments by this official dedication of what we feel in our hearts is a token of what you've done."

Members of Mr. Kitchen's family, former co-workers, retirees and a few local politicians attended the dedication.

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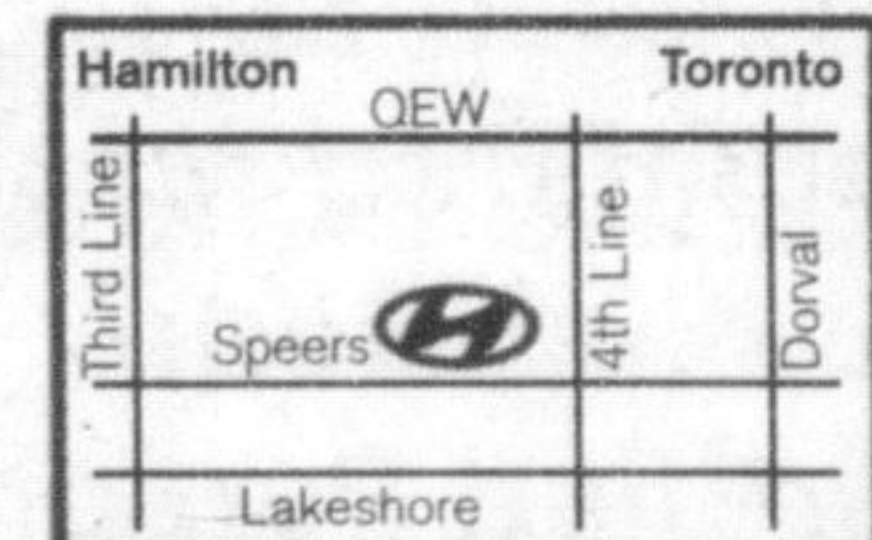
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