

Councillors' salaries, expenses presented at meeting

By MELANIE HENNESSEY

The Champion

The Town spent almost \$250,000 on council members' salaries last year.

A staff report presented to the administration and planning committee February 21 detailed what each councillor and the mayor were paid, plus how much was spent on benefits, conferences and mileage.

Mayor Gord Krantz's salary came in at \$46,011, while each councillor was paid \$20,342, with the exception of Ward 4 Councillor John Challinor, who was paid \$16,026.87.

Mr. Challinor explained it's his personal choice to have a lower salary.

"That amount of money covers everything I

need to do," he said, noting he uses it to pay for gas, communications with residents, phone bills and his time. "It's quite adequate for what I need."

Almost \$33,000 was spent on council's benefits, with about \$6,100 of that going to Mr. Krantz. Most councillors' benefits fell within the \$2,000 to \$4,000 range, while Ward 1 Councillor Brian Penman spent only \$1,298 and Mr. Challinor, \$925.89.

All council members have benefits, covering life, dental, drugs and vision care, with the premiums being paid for 50/50 by the Town and councillors. Pension contributions and deductions also fall under this category.

Five councillors and the mayor collectively spent nearly \$13,000 on conferences and workshops — Mr. Krantz, \$3,018.08, Ward 2

Councillor Mark Curtis, \$1,172.19, Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau, \$1,004.36, Ward 3 Councillor Jan Mowbray, \$3,710.88, Mr. Penman, \$1,759.68 and Ward 4 Councillor Wendy Schau, \$1,633.71.

About \$12,000 was dished out for mileage between five council members — Wards 1 and 3 Councillor Barry Lee, \$1,265, Ms Lunau, \$4,047.53, Ms Mowbray, \$388.21, Mr. Penman, \$1,090.84, and Mr. Krantz, \$5,152.08. Mileage is calculated at 44.7 cents per kilometre.

Regional council salaries

At the regional level, nearly \$1 million was spent on councillors' salaries, benefits and expenses last year.

A report to the administration and finance committee Wednesday showed Chair Joyce

Savoline made \$171,050, while councillors' salaries ranged from about \$35,500 up to \$39,800. These numbers also include benefits.

About \$21,000 was spent on regional council members attending conferences and nearly \$13,000 on mileage and other expenses.

The document also detailed committee and board remuneration and expenses for 2004, which were: ecological and environmental advisory committee, \$178, Halton Regional Police Services Board, \$57,534, and conservation authorities, \$21,847. It noted that the Halton Community Housing Corporation and Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee spent nothing.

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Advertorial

Milton opens doors to Starbucks

Pent up demand for the Starbucks Coffee experience is now being met at the company's first store in Milton, which opened on February 21st, 2005. The store is located at 16 Market Drive.

Proof that people could barely wait for a Starbucks coffee was evident in the number of customers who came in on Feb 20th for a sneak peak of the new store during its open house. Donations during this time were raised for the E.C. Drury, Secondary School for the Deaf.

The outdoor patio, interior plush seats and warm colour palette chosen for the location's décor, certainly indicates that the 1100 sq. ft. location is geared for relaxation and a cozy atmosphere. Although the drive thru is always an option for added convenience in the comfort of your own car.

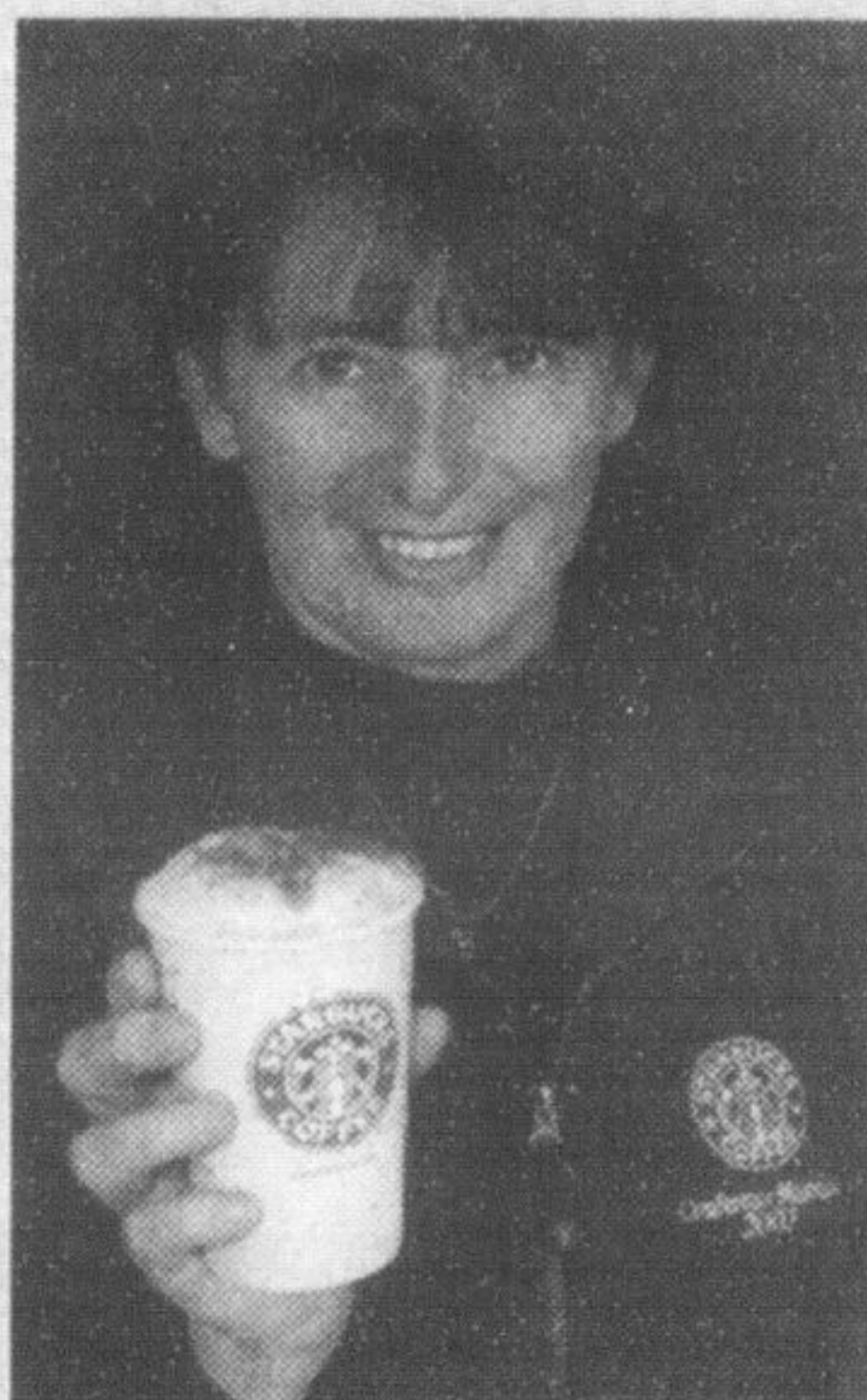
"I think people are looking for comfort, and they love coming to Starbucks for that." Says Steve LeBarr, Starbucks new store marketing manager for Canada. "A great cup of coffee is a luxury that people like to reward themselves with, and we aim to provide them with that third place between work and home where they can gather with friends and family to relax and enjoy it."

Starbucks store manager, Betty Gilbert, heads a local staff of 25 full-time and part-time employees who go by the term Starbucks partners.

"In terms of actual ownership, the title does have meaning, as every employee working 20 hours or more is eligible for a benefit package, which includes a share investment plan," says LeBarr.

"Once you meet a minimum number of months that you have been with the company, you can participate in the stock investment plan where you can purchase stock at a discount," he said. "Partners have a true feeling of ownership as they're able to participate in the growth of the company."

The company hires local people for positions that seem to offer one of the best pay and benefits packages in the industry. Because of their growth, opportunities for advancement are also numerous.



Starbucks believes in playing a key role in the local community by encouraging partners to regularly support the local organizations through volunteer hours and grants from the Starbucks Foundation. In Milton, Starbucks will be supporting local literacy organizations.

Betty Gilbert, store manager of Starbucks, makes one of their world famous Cappuccinos at their new Milton location.

There's a drive-thru Starbucks now open in your neighbourhood.



Keep your engine running. Enjoy your favourite Starbucks® beverage on the go, with the convenience of our new drive-thru location.

16 Market Drive

Mon to Sun: 5:30am to 12:00am

