

Region supports Juno Beach memorial

By Stephanie Thiessen
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

To honour the local veterans who sacrificed so much, Halton Region will participate in a program that'll see them memorialized at the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy.

Halton councillors voted at the Region meeting April 19 to contribute up to \$15,000 to the initiative. The Region agreed to match the donations of Halton's four municipalities, which will purchase one brick for every local veteran killed in the Second World War at a cost of \$50 each.

Each brick — actually a plaque — will have the name of a veteran inscribed on it and will

be displayed in a kiosk wall at the centre, which is located at the D-Day landing sites.

The recommendation was, "Given Halton Region's tradition of strong endorsement and support for initiatives that recognize the sacrifices made by veterans, regional council supports sponsoring the Juno Beach Centre Association's memorial initiative."

If approved by town council, Milton will purchase 55 bricks at a cost of \$50 each. Burlington, Halton Hills and Oakville will purchase 44, 61 and 104 respectively.

The Regional funds will come from Halton's operating budget.

"I'm very supportive of this," said Milton Mayor Gord Krantz following a presentation by Garth Webb, president of the Juno Beach

Centre Association.

He noted he'd like to see a formal written request for the money from the association.

Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale said the cost of involvement is a relatively small one.

"I think it's something we can all get behind," she said, adding, "This is the last generation to have the privilege of actually talking with a veteran."

Steve Dodd of the Juno Beach Centre Association made a presentation to the Region's administration and finance committee April 12 and said the local legions will be contacted for their support of the program.

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Substitute teachers make deal

Halton's elementary substitute teachers have a new four-year contract that no longer makes the group the lowest paid in the province, says the president of the local union.

Al Bero, head of Halton Elementary Occasional Teachers, which is affiliated with the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, said he's satisfied with the agreement hammered out with the public board.

The nearly 800 occasional elementary teachers he oversees had been earning \$160.64 for a full day, a 2004 figure.

The new deal gives members \$165 per day retroactive to Sept. 1, 2004.

The September 2005 figure is \$170 per day climbing to \$180 daily in September, \$190 in September 2007 and \$194.80 by Aug. 31, 2008, a figure Bero says matches their counterparts in Peel Region, a goal of the union.

"It wasn't unanimous but it was a satisfactory amount. The membership is generally pleased," Bero said of the mood at the union's April 20 ratification vote.

New contract in the works

The Halton District School Board has a tentative contract with its substitute teachers at the secondary level.

Financial details of the pact haven't been announced but it's a four-year agreement retroactive to September 2004 and expiring in September 2008.

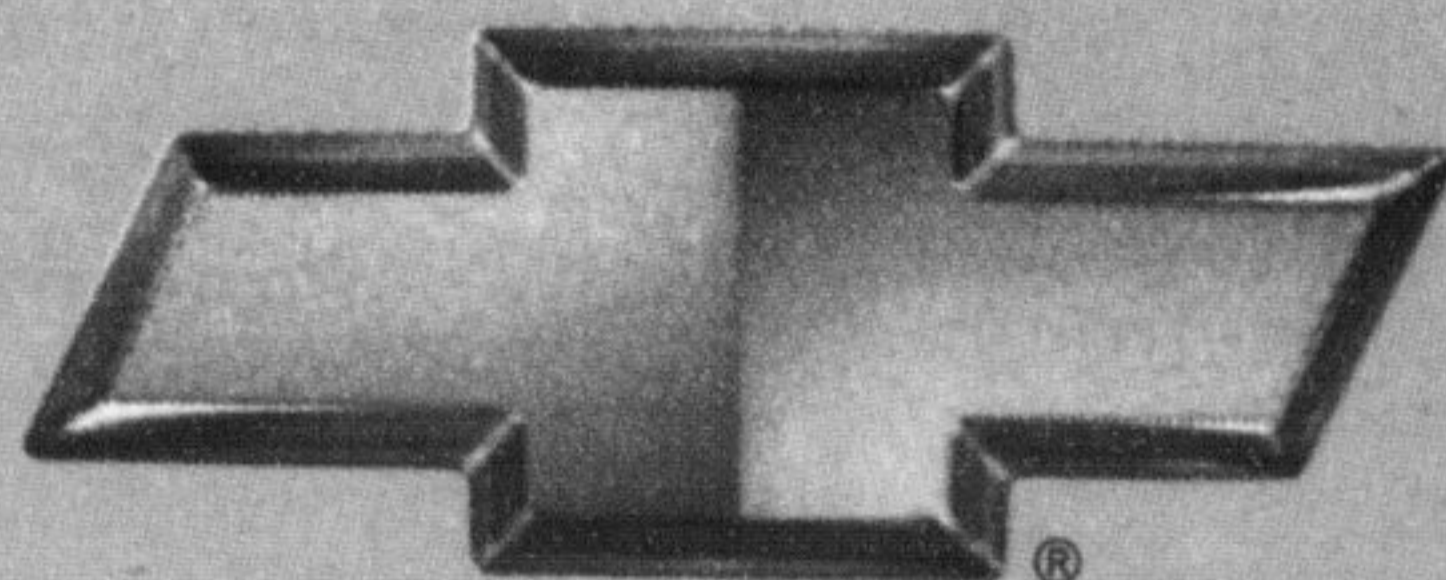
The deal was reached April 20. Public board trustees voted in favour of it at a meeting Wednesday while the union membership will hold its ratification vote May 11.

The Halton Secondary Occasional Teachers represent more than 300 substitute classroom instructors.

"I believe the membership will be pleased with the agreement reached with the board because it addresses many of the priorities set by the membership for this round of negotiations," said Tom Beer, chief negotiator for Halton's secondary occasional teachers.

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