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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**FULL STEAM AHEAD:** A vintage Sawyer-Massey steam engine chugs along Main Street in the rain during the Steam-Era parade Saturday. See full coverage of the traditional Labour Day weekend event on page B4.

## Regional councillors up for raise

By Melanie Hennessey  
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

It looks like regional councillors elected this fall could make a bit more money than originally expected.

A raise that would kick in December 1 was supported by Halton's administration and finance committee Wednesday. This means — if council approves it next week — that councillors would go from earning \$36,535 a year to \$39,168 and the regional chairman from \$144,828 to \$147,029.

The numbers came as a recommendation from the Citizen Advisory Committee on Council Remuneration, which met two times during the summer to consider the matter.

The group found Halton councillors' **• see PAY on page A13**

## Halton's Official Plan gets final approval

Document that was years in making now officially in effect

By Melanie Hennessey  
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

After more than a year before the Ontario Municipal Board, the Region's updated Official Plan has been approved with some changes.

The recent decision, which was presented to the Region's planning and public works committee Wednesday, brings about closure for the 26 appeals made regarding Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) 25 — a blueprint that sets a vision for the future of Halton.

The approval also means that the document is now officially in effect under the Planning

Act, with the exception of a map that has final approval pending from the board next month.

Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline applauded the board's decision, calling it "great news."

"It confirms we have a good handle on how to plan Halton," she said.

### Numerous settlements reached

The new version of the Official Plan incorporates the many settlements the Region reached with those who appealed it, ranging from large businesses like Dufferin Aggregates to private landowners.

Notable settlements were also negotiated with the Georgetown South Landowners

Group, North Oakville Landowners Inc., Clay Brick Association and Peel Region.

Appeals were based on issues like growth management, environmental protection and financial policy, a staff report to committee explained.

Savoline noted any changes made to the plan at the board "clarified what it was Halton approved in the first place."

She went on to emphasize, "The most important aspect is we're defensible. There's no point in having a plan that, when challenged, you lose."

The settlements also proved to have some financial benefits, with the Region coming in about \$1.9 million under budget after the anticipated 96-day hearing was cut down to 25

**• see HEARING on page A2**

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