

Councillor numbers won't be reviewed until after 2010

By Cynthia Gamble
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Halton Region will wait until after the 2010 Census before considering the number of councillors representing the four Halton municipalities.

This means there will be no change in the regional representation for the 2010 municipal election — any change would not occur until the 2014 municipal election at the earliest.

Regional council made the decision earlier this year, after receiving a report by the regional representation review sub-committee, of which Milton Mayor Gord Krantz is a member.

The sub-committee was set up late last year, after south Halton councillors stated more councillors were needed to represent the growing population in Oakville and Burlington.

But Krantz said he'd rather not see an increase in council members right now,

either regionally or locally.

"I know there's not a big demand for more politicians on the scene," he said. "I think it's about quality, not quantity."

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette said he thinks the decision to maintain the status quo was a good one.

"It's what I've been saying all along, that we didn't need any new councillors," he said. "Let's wait for the Census and the Places to Grow/Sustainable Halton Plan to determine the numbers."

However regional staff was directed to report back in September to the regional representation review sub-committee on seat distribution changes in Halton since its incorporation in the 1970s and on municipal models or provincial legislation that deal with regular reviews of representation.

The sub-committee will then decide on developing a regional policy on regional representation, including its impact on the four municipalities, and a public consultation process.

Community fund grants to be handed out

Almost \$100,000 is being distributed to seven community-based projects from the Halton Healthy Community Fund.

Regional council approved a total of \$98,740 in new grants Wednesday for the area groups that've formed collaborative partnerships to launch projects that strengthen communities, neighbourhoods and families.

The recipients, listed by lead administrative partner and project, are:

- Burlington Art Centre, Art for All — \$8,740 to help at-risk youth increase their knowledge and understanding of art
- CharterAbility, PARDmers Accessible Recreational Docking Project — \$10,000 to operate a barrier-

free, fully accessible powerboat service for people with disabilities

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton, Corporate Volunteerism in Halton — \$20,000 to hire two part-time co-ordinators of volunteers and launch a corporate outreach program to foster volunteerism

- Food for Life Canada, Halton Community Housing Corporation (HCHC) Outreach Program Project — \$12,000 to expand its outreach program to six additional sites

- Food for Life Canada, Halton Region Collaborative Project on Food Security — \$30,000 to hire a part-time project manager and support the launch of the "Halton Food for All" project

- ForestView Church Without Walls, Compassion Society — \$12,000 to help with used clothing distribution to needy families

- Community Living Oakville, Halton Support Network for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities — \$6,000 to host a full-day training event

The Halton Healthy Community Fund is a partnership of community funders — including Halton Region, the four local municipalities and their respective United Ways — that pool financial, human and administrative resources to support community improvement projects.

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