

# ATTENTION

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# Region wants say in police budget

A regional task force set up earlier this year to look into police matters has arrived at an expected conclusion — that the Region of Halton should be given more control over the police budget.

The issue typically rears its head when the police budget is brought before municipal politicians, and last year was no exception.

Many politicians again voiced concern that while they foot the bill to run the police department, they have no say in how the money is spent.

In the report, to be considered by regional council on Wednesday, the bottom line is local politicians want municipal councils to be given "final authority to review, evaluate, amend and approve police force budgets."

### Rural dumping

Halton Region is once again raising the issue of construction companies dumping waste on rural lands.

The Region initially vented its concerns to the Province when the Liberals were at the helm, but the issue never made it off the back burner. They're hoping that won't be the case with the Bob Rae government.

"The New Democratic government has expressed a commitment to the preservation of agricultural land," states a staff report to today's regional council meeting. "The control of dumping of construction fill on agricultural land is one aspect of agricultural land preservation."

The issue was brought to the attention of regional council last summer by local agricultural groups, and staff subsequently agreed there was no existing provincial legislation dealing with the issue.

Staff were particularly concerned with ongoing dumping of construction material in the area of Highway

## Region Briefs

25 and Burnhamthorpe Road in north Oakville.

### Salt of the earth

Halton drivers better prepare their vehicles for a winter assault.

In order to battle wintry roads, Halton Region and its municipalities have stockpiled 26,500 tonnes of salt worth almost \$900,000.

### Housing meeting

Set aside the night of Thursday, Dec. 6 if you're interested in helping to shape Halton's housing policy.

The meeting is designed to identify the issues and encourage public feedback.

The meeting in Milton gets underway at 7 p.m. at E.C. Drury. A meeting for south Halton is slated for Wednesday, December 5, at General Wolfe High School in Oakville beginning at 7 p.m.

Key areas to be addressed include the housing supply versus the need as well as affordable housing.

### GST savings

Halton Regional Police have found at least one area where they expect to come out ahead as a result of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) — and that's in the purchase of police vehicles.

The police have informed Halton regional council they expect to save about \$20,000 by postponing approximately \$300,000 in vehicle purchases until next year, when the controversial new federal tax is slated to come into effect.

That's because car dealers, while

having to charge the 7 per cent GST on January 1, will also have the current 11.1 per cent manufacturers' sales tax eliminated.

That, combined with the fact that regional municipalities get more than half of their GST payouts refunded by the feds, is expected to result in a savings on vehicle purchases to municipalities of "approximately 8 or 9 per cent."

"The police have determined that they can wait the extra few months to replace their vehicles," explained Mr. Rinaldo.

### Business recycling

The city of Burlington wants Halton Region, during its current budget deliberations, to consider expanding its highly successful residential Blue Box recycling program into the industrial and commercial sectors.

### Members wanted

Help wanted.

Only those interested in environmental matters need apply. Halton Region is looking for about a half-dozen citizens interested in joining an ecological advisory committee.

The six members will replace an equal number who have resigned from the 23-member committee over the past year.

Tasks include reviewing development applications, putting out a special newsletter for Halton residents who own property in environmentally sensitive areas, and running an environment week.

As well, special projects are undertaken which presently include input on a proposed 'green' land strategy for the Toronto area and advice on rewriting the Region's official plan.

Advertisements for new members will be circulated in December.

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