

Halton approves reinventing itself, but will it last?

By **BRAD REAUME**
The Champion

Despite pockets of resistance, councillors finished Tuesday's do-or-die debate with a broad consensus on the future of Halton Region.

In a 21-3 vote, councillors agreed to a redistribution of seats. The new council will consist of 20 representatives — seven each from Burlington and Oakville, and three each from Milton and Halton Hills.

Their recommendation will be sent to Al Leach, Ontario's minister of municipal affairs, for consideration among municipal reforms expected to be announced in June.

Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale, whose municipality forced the debate, said she was satisfied with the result, but noted there is more to come.

"Today's result gives us flexibility for the future of Halton Region," she said, adding reorganizing local government services is the next step.

At least until the next municipal election in 1997, regional council has 24 representatives — nine from Burlington, seven from Oakville, five from Halton Hills and three from Milton.

The current balance has prevailed since Halton was formed in 1974. Attempts to modify it fell on deaf ears until this year, when the Town of Oakville was able to leverage fear of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) into a redistribution of seats.

The only flare-ups Tuesday centered on the loss of seats by both Burlington and Halton Hills.

Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson called



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— Anne Mulvale
OAKVILLE MAYOR

the proposal "a dictatorship" but Burlington Mayor Walter Mulkeiwich said that contention was emotional, and not substantiated by the facts.

Burlington Councillor Ralph Scholtens said

his city was being "shafted" in the redistribution, claiming that Milton will get one representative for every 10,000 residents while Burlington will be getting one voice for every 20,000 people.

"Is this a compromise? Yes. Is it fair and equitable? No way," said Mr. Scholtens. Mr. Mulkeiwich, who initially proposed a 6-6-2-2 configuration, said if representation went strictly by population Burlington would have six seats, Oakville five and Milton and Halton Hills one each.

After the meeting Mr. Scholtens said cutting only four seats overall from council was not enough. He questioned how many municipal governments are needed in Halton, noting there are currently five — Halton Region and the four local municipalities.

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Diedre Scholtz

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Doctors have given up on the drug therapy and Deidre, who is currently at home, will be admitted to hospital Wednesday in preparation for her transplant. Such an operation has a 70 per cent success rate, the hopeful mother said.

The senior kindergarten Holy Rosary School student will undergo chemotherapy and radiation treatments to "wipe clean" her immune system before the operation, Mrs. Scholtz said.

Following the transplant, Deidre will be placed in an isolation room at the hospital for about three weeks to prevent infection. The initial recovery period is about four to eight weeks.

If all goes well, Deidre could be back at school in six months, however, she won't be out of danger. Her body could still reject the transplant for up to two years, Mrs. Scholtz said.

The Scholtzes have been told nothing about the identity of the bone marrow donor under regulations of the Unrelated Bone Marrow Registry.

They also don't know if the match was found as a result of the bone marrow donor clinic held for Deidre in March. More than 2,000 people turned out.

The person's identity will remain a mystery to the family until a year after the transplant. At that time, the donor's name will be released only if both parties agree.

Deidre needs the transplant because she has lost the ability to produce her own blood — red cells, platelets and white cells to fight infection — and her bone marrow is deteriorating.

Since the Scholtzes went public in their search for a bone marrow donor in late February, the entire community has banded together to help. Along with the overwhelmingly-supported bone marrow donor clinic, the town raised more than \$100,000 to cover the cost of testing.

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