

Burke gets bigger Ottawa job...

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Mr. Krantz said he was made aware of the change, effective September 3, on Thursday morning. He added that he could not help but think the uncertainties surrounding the future of regions in the Greater Toronto Area might have fueled Mr. Burke's interest in another job.

John Fleming, CAO at Halton Region prior to Mr. Burke, moved after a similar amount of time to a position with the City of London (Ontario). Mr. Krantz said Mr. Burke's employment history prior to coming to Halton showed a similar pattern.

"It was a difficult decision," said Mr. Burke. "There are few times when an opportunity like this presents itself. It is a move up, and having worked in the area before we like it for social and professional reasons."

Mr. Burke said he worked for the City of Gloucester from 1984 to 1987. As city manager for Ottawa he will be responsible for 3,000 employees and a budget of \$350 million. In Halton Region he was responsible for about 1,000 employees and a \$200 million budget.

Mr. Burke said he was satisfied with his accomplishments and the course that Halton is on. "The big things that needed to be done, the important things, have been accomplished or they are in the process of being done." He cited growth management, restructuring, and integrated solid waste collection. "We have a strong relationship with the four municipalities and local school boards and that's rare across Ontario."

Mr. Burke also pointed to a \$15 million reduction in

Halton's gross budget, an improved financial reserve position, no tax increases, a 14 per cent reduction in staff and maintenance of Halton's AAA credit rating, saying "those things don't happen accidentally."

Burlington Councillor Rob MacIssac, chair of Halton's administration and finance committee, said Halton "is losing a very capable administrator." He added that he felt Mr. Burke had accomplished most of his goals at the region.

"His reputation puts him in demand," said Mr. MacIssac, who suggested Mr. Burke may have been courted by Ottawa. "He is solid, innovative and tough. It's a big loss to Halton but no one is indispensable, so I'm sure we'll find a good replacement."

Mr. MacIssac said council will likely elect to strike a search committee to find a new CAO.

Regional Chair Joyce Savoline said she was "numb" at the news, adding that Mr. Burke "provided invaluable support." She said she understood his desire to pursue an opportunity which comes along only rarely.

"He has left a legacy of a much stronger Halton," she said. "He'll be missed."

Mr. Burke's reputation as a capable and tough CAO preceded him, according to Ms Savoline. Halton will be looking for someone with his "leadership qualities" she said, adding there should be no lack of qualified applicants. Ms Savoline also dismissed the idea that Mr. Burke would be a lame duck for the next two months, saying he has tremendous support among staff.



John Burke

Accident claims vibrant woman

By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

A tragic car crash in Poland has claimed the life of a Milton woman known as a supportive mother and active member of the Roman Catholic community.

Maria Cieslewicz, 40, of Laurier Avenue was killed June 18, the day before she and her son, Nick, were to return home from a holiday in their native country.

The accident also claimed the life of Mrs. Cieslewicz's father, Thaddeus, and injured Nick, a grade 7 Holy Rosary School student.

No information was available on Nick's condition, however, it's believed his injuries were not life-threatening.

Mrs. Cieslewicz is also survived by her husband, Piotr, and sons Konrad and Oskar, both grade 10 students at Bishop Reding Secondary School. All three remained in Canada while Mrs. Cieslewicz and Nick left in early June to visit family in Poland.

Members of Holy Rosary Parish and Bishop Reding Secondary School attended the family's Laurier Avenue home the night of the accident to support a shocked Mr. Cieslewicz and his two older sons.

A friend of the family said the couple were first loves, meeting when Mrs. Cieslewicz was 16.

The couple and their three sons had only lived in Milton two years, but had already made an impact on the community, the friend said.

Mrs. Cieslewicz actively supported Bishop Reding's junior basketball team, said coach Chris Dooley, who got to know the couple well through their sons' participation in the sport.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Cieslewicz played university basketball in Poland, and always came to games to watch Konrad and Oskar on the court.

Described by Mr. Dooley as "very, very outgoing," Mrs. Cieslewicz's cheers could be heard loudly and clearly at every game.

"She didn't just focus on her own kids like a lot of parents do," Mr. Dooley said. "She told the other kids when they played great, too."

The close-knit, religious family moved from Poland to Canada four years ago, first settling in St. Catharines.

Mr. Cieslewicz and sons Konrad, Oskar and Nick were expected home yesterday after attending funeral services in Poland.

Mrs. Cieslewicz and her father will be remembered this Sunday during 10:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Rosary Church. Friends will be welcome at the parish hall immediately afterward.

Anyone who would like to help the family pay for travel costs and other expenses incurred during the ordeal can make a donation Sunday.

Write "The Cieslewicz Family" on an envelope and place it in the collection basket during Mass, or in a container in the hallway.

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