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Bruce Hood



A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA — TRAVEL, OF COURSE

YES, A GIFT TRAVEL VOUCHER — AVAILABLE AT OUR OFFICES IN ANY AMOUNT YOU CHOOSE (with a travel bag, a copy of Tilley Travel Tips, other travel information, and "ideas" — Vacation brochures, thrown in!) **OFFERS MANY OPTIONS** — this is an excellent Christmas Gift! It can be used at any time of the year for any travel purpose. Or it can be directed for a distinct trip.

A WEEKEND AWAY right here IN ONTARIO (with the kids, or perhaps without ...), or a planned trip to a far-off destination, or for any of the multitude of choices in-between — a **VACATION IN THE CARIBBEAN; A CRUISE TO ALASKA; A SKI PACKAGE**; the list goes on. **TRAVEL — THE COMMON DENOMINATOR** for all of us!

WIN A LOTTERY LATELY, OR RECEIVED AN INHERITANCE, OR STRUCK IT RICH IN THE MARKET? Well, it seems anybody who does have this happen to them, one of the very first things you will hear is — they are going to travel! BUT, the good part is that while the costs for almost everything has increased over the many years, not so in travel vacations. Because of all the new locations opening up in the "warm spots" and with so many companies serving the market looking for your business, costs have stayed down somewhat. On top of this there are bargains showing up in almost all phases of travel, for you.

THE IDEA OF "HOME EXCHANGE" for a vacation comes up periodically, and in our opinion is a good one! There are many options out there with companies that make it their **WORLD-WIDE BUSINESS**. Another idea is — when you are away, such as on a cruise, and meet people from other countries — mention the idea — they may want to come to Canada on an exchange. It does work, and the cost is right for both! **WORLDHOME** at 604-987-3262 (North Vancouver); 1-800-665-0732 is another contact for **INERVAC CANADA**. There are others, for sure, and there are people that use this method for vacation regularly.

DID YOU KNOW DEPT.: The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade suggests that you take your passport with you whenever you leave the country — even for a day trip to the U.S. More and more you need picture I.D. to prove you are allowed to re-enter Canada. **DON'T HAVE A PASSPORT?** Get your application and information on "HOW TO" from our travel offices. The process is easy and takes little time.

TRAVEL TIP OF THE WEEK: Christmas is a special time of year — when **TRAVELLING IN YOUR AUTO** — do **DRIVE CAREFULLY** — whether to Grandma's house for Christmas, or to the store. **YOU ARE VALUABLE CARGO**, so do **CONCENTRATE** on your driving. **SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL!**

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Savoline says Halton gridlock will end

New GTA board to co-ordinate some services

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sort out their own plans, but no timetable has been announced.

Mr. Leach also announced a creation of a Greater Toronto Services Board (GTSB) that will co-ordinate user pay services across the entire GTA. There was no indication of a time frame for that restructuring. However, Durham Region chair Jim Witty told the Toronto Star that from his perspective unless the Regions do something concrete by the end of March the province will "make some pretty definite statements."

"I was under the impression they (the provincial government) were going to be satisfied with mergers of delivery of services," Mr. Witty said. "It would appear they are going to be insisting upon mergers of municipalities."

Ms Savoline admitted there has been a gridlock of action at Halton Region during the last year and a half, since the Harris Tories were elected, and promised to address municipal reform.

"Not knowing what reforms would be introduced, there was a lack of willingness to get on with projects that we anticipated would be addressed in this term of council," said Ms Savoline. "The responses to various reports took a lot of our resources and slowed down our progress because various initiatives became secondary."

Ms Savoline said Halton's Project Orange is a major initiative that will be put back into place now that reform has stabilized. In addition the Region will be able to address other restructuring issues. There have been talks with Peel to secure water services for parts of north Halton.

Project Orange is a set of negotiations to form a comprehensive streamlining of services and responsibilities across Halton including all governments and public services including school boards.

Ms Savoline added there is no indication from the provincial government of a time table for additional reforms in the 905 Regions. As long as there are programs in place in York, Durham, Peel and Halton Regions to allow for changes to take place the Halton chair thinks the province will be satisfied.

"I think Mr. Leach said it himself, there is an evolution among the Regions and we are at different stages of that evolution," said Ms Savoline. "We are not looking for dramatic change but we



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— JOYCE SAVOLINE

are looking at change."

Pointing to Project Orange, Ms Savoline said Halton Region has always applied pressure to itself and the removal of pressure from the province should have no effect on the speed and depth of local restructuring.

With Project Orange some responsibilities move up to the regional tier of government and others move down, she said. Halton is continuing with the Halton Urban Structure Plan (HUSP) as if nothing has changed, said Ms Savoline. However there is a Greater Toronto Services Board which will co-ordinate most things which are user pay, such as transit, water, and sewers. The GTSB will be involved in issues throughout the whole GTA area. Mr. Leach named former provincial bureaucrat Milt Farrow of Oakville to frame the terms of reference for the new coordinating body which will be in place by early spring.

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