

Preparing for the challenge

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The MPP qualifies however that one must understand the origins of the problem and “what sort of basement we started from.”

Flynn said for years the 905 was ignored and coped with downloading from the province. With some downloading being reversed now — pooling, for example — progress is being made.

The MPP said funding formulas could theoretically be changed, but noted what is important is what people experience first hand — such as decreasing wait times at hospital or for surgery.

Flynn said progress is not always made by throwing money at a problem, but does believe expenditures inherent to growth should be linked to growth and noted existing taxpayers

should not have to subsidize new development.

The UWO knows when the economy fluctuates, social services are hardest hit. And in the face of a shortfall of provincial cash, it's the UWO that has to make up the shortfall.

“We're under pressure to come up with this gap and we can't necessarily fill it on our own,” said Burton.

After facing shortfalls on its fundraising campaigns over the last couple of years, the UWO did surpass its goal in the 2008 campaign, raising \$123,000 more than its \$3.4 million target.

The money is channelled to 30 local human and social service agencies that support families, seniors and those in crisis, promoting well-being, independence and self-sufficiency.



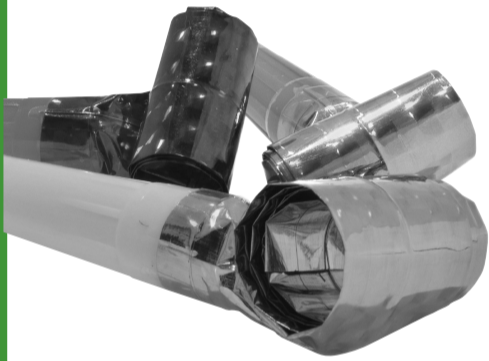
DEREK WOOLLAM / SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

WAY TO GO: The Moen team poses with its Spirit Award from the Winston Park Business Challenge. From left, ZsuZsanna Molnak, Ann Mulvale of the United Way of Oakville, Sandra England, Claudina Mannick, Bill Essex, Doret Dewar, Jonathan Armstrong, Lina Baglio and Alice McCloud.



The Regional Municipality of Halton www.halton.ca

New Year's Resolutions



Make a New Year's resolution to help the environment.

- Return wine and alcohol containers (cans, glass, plastic, Tetra-Pak® and Bag-in-Box) to The Beer Store for a refund of your deposit.
- Give unwanted clothes, books, toys and furniture to a reuse centre.
- Decide to pack a litterless lunch for school and work—use reusable containers instead of disposable ones and take back acceptable items to retailers whenever possible.

For a list of environmental New Year's resolutions your whole family can commit to, visit www.halton.ca/waste.

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

Greater Toronto Airports Authority Board Of Directors

Halton Region is seeking candidates interested in becoming a municipal representative on the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) Board of Directors. Membership information, including qualifications and required experience for directors, is available on the Region's website www.halton.ca. Persons having senior financial management expertise with financial operating experience and financial literacy or persons with environmental expertise are particularly encouraged to apply.

A sub-committee of Halton Regional Council will interview all qualified candidates and Regional Council will recommend three (3) qualified nominees to the GTAA Board of Directors for consideration. The Regions of Durham and Peel will also recommend three candidates. Four Directors will be appointed by the GTAA Board, one nominee from each municipality and one At-Large appointment, for a three-year term commencing in May 2009.

To apply: Application forms are available on www.halton.ca, by e-mail to regionalclerk@halton.ca, or from the Office of the Regional Clerk, Halton Region, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, during business hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Completed applications must be received at the Office of the Regional Clerk no later than Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. Completed forms may be submitted online, by mail or by fax to 905-825-8838.



You are Invited to Attend a Community Sustainability Forum with Ken Melamed, Mayor of Whistler, B.C.

Whistler's Action for Community Building and Global Change

Mayor Melamed will speak about Whistler's success with Community Sustainability Planning

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Halton Regional Centre Auditorium
1151 Bronte Road, Oakville

- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Poster session showcasing various "green" initiatives throughout Halton Region
- 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Ken Melamed, Mayor of Whistler B.C., speaks about his municipality's inspiring model and shared vision down a long journey to a sustainable future
- 8:30 - 9:00 p.m. Questions and Answers with Ken Melamed

1.7 per cent tax increase: one of the lowest in Ontario

On December 17, Regional Council unanimously approved the 2009 budget, raising Regional property taxes by 1.7%. This increase is one of the lowest in the Province of Ontario.

With the Halton Regional Police services' tax increase of 3.4%, the overall property tax increase is 2.2%. Water and wastewater rates have increased by 6.7%. The increase helps cover costs to Regional water efficiency programs, such as the Low Flow Toilet Rebate Program, while dealing with rising costs of materials and community growth.

This budget was developed to maintain service levels, respond to the community and invest in capital infrastructure. Given the current economy, I'm proud we can be financially prudent while delivering on our objectives. For more details, visit www.halton.ca.



Gary Carr
Regional Chair

Halton Regional Meeting Schedule

Dec. 24 - Jan. 1	Offices Closed for the Holidays
Jan. 13 9:30 a.m.	Health & Social Services Committee
Jan. 14 1:30 p.m.	Administration & Finance Committee