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Halton: "Good bye and good riddance" was the reaction from many of our community members who were delighted when Chairman Joyce Savoline announced she will not be seeking reelection after her term is up.

The Chairman who many felt barely acknowledged anything north of Dundas, at one time told Herald reporters; it's her opinion that anything north of Dundas is rural.

Her office prepared this press release for the media:

"Chairman Savoline not seeking reelection. Halton Regional Council finished the last meeting of the year on a surprising note when Chairman Joyce Savoline made the announcement that she is not planning to seek re-election next November.

"It has been my pleasure and it has been my privilege to serve the residents of Halton as Regional Chairman. I have chosen to make this announcement now, recognizing the magnitude of the campaign necessary to ensure voters from all of the municipalities have an understanding of the candidates seeking the position of Chairman and the personnel and financial resources necessary for this undertaking... and of course, recognizing the time it takes to have a thorough understanding of the issues unique to each municipality and affecting Halton as a whole."

The Chairman advised that she came to the decision to leave public office following a long deliberation. "This is a personal decision. The job of Regional Chairman takes a tremendous amount of time and dedication. I felt in my heart that this is the right decision for where I am at this point in my life. I look forward to seeing what the future may bring!"

The Chairman made it clear in her address that she looked forward to leading Regional Council through the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead and that she will continue to fulfill her responsibilities for the balance of her term as Chairman and meet her commitments to the people of Halton Region.

Chairman Savoline noted that Halton Region was well positioned for the future, given the strength and professionalism of staff that have ensured the stability of 'Team Halton'. The Region's sound financial practices resulting in concurrent AAA credit ratings, high customer service standards and continuous study and application of new technologies will continue to yield efficiencies for the taxpayer while upholding a quality of life, second to none.

The Chairman's remarks were met with a standing ovation."

And it's apparent from the reaction in our forums, many in Halton Hills are glad to hear about her decision to go too.