

Durham council pay adds up to \$1.4M

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DURHAM --In the first year of the current council's term, the regional chairman and councillors earned a total of \$1.4 million.

Most of Durham's 28 councillors were paid \$43,201.71. Those that chaired a committee -- Oshawa councillor April Cullen and Mayor John Gray, Scugog Mayor Marilyn Pearce and Clarington councillor Charlie Trim -- earned \$49,180.93. Regional chairman Roger Anderson earned \$163,196.61.

Durham also paid out \$31,000 for mileage. Ajax councillor Scott Crawford, Whitby councillor Gerry Emm and Mayor Pat Perkins and Oshawa councillor John Henry did not claim any mileage.

Another \$85,500 went to reimburse councillors for expenses incurred for attending conferences, conventions and meetings. Each councillor can be reimbursed up to a total of \$10,000 during their four-year term.

Coun. Henry, Mayor Perkins, Whitby councillor Don Mitchell, Oshawa councillor Brian Nicholson and Ajax Mayor Steve Parish did not claim any expenses for conferences, conventions and meetings.

A trip to Europe to look at waste technologies, including incinerators, attended by seven councillors and the regional chairman, cost an additional \$46,000. A trade and investment mission that included Mr. Anderson, Mayor Parish and Pickering Mayor Dave Ryan cost \$17,000.

Finally, the Region paid out \$315,000 in severance pay to six former Regional council members, with former Whitby Mayor Marcel Brunelle and Uxbridge Mayor Gerri-Lynn O'Connor getting the most at just under \$73,000 and former Clarington councillor Jim Schell getting the least with just more than \$21,000. Pickering's Maurice Brenner, Oshawa's Cathy Clarke and Uxbridge's Susan Self also received severance pay.
