

King has smallest number of high-paid staffers in the region

By Mark Pavilons

While King Township had six employees on what's known as the "Sunshine List," our municipality seems frugal in comparison to others.

The salaries and taxable benefits of employees in the Ontario Public Service and the broader public sector who were paid \$100,000 or more in 2014 were released last week. The Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act requires public sector organizations to disclose, by March 31, the name, position, salary and taxable benefits of their employees paid \$100,000 or more in the previous calendar year. King Township only had six employees on the list.

The top wage earner in King is CAO Susan Plamondon, who earned \$183,960.46 last year.

Next were Clerk Kathryn Smyth and Planning Director Stephen Kitchen, who earned \$113,926. Chief building official Brian Grubbe earned \$112,809.67, followed by head of engineering Mike Cole (\$102,965) and Fire Chief Jim Wall (\$101,271).

Steve Pellegrini earned \$117,628 as Brampton's supervisor of business services. Councillor Bill Cober, a principal with the York Region District School Board, earned \$122,746.90.

Comparing nearby municipalities puts things in perspective.

Caledon had 41 staffers make the grade. They paid their CAO a whopping \$228,357 and their fire chief earned \$144,784. Caledon also has many full-time firefighters, some of whom earn over \$100,000. Caledon's clerk (director of administration) earned \$133,651.

In Aurora, they had 31 staffers make the list. Their CAO pulled in \$208,889 and their chief executive officer earned \$152,202.

In Bradford-West Gwillimbury, 22 staffers enjoyed the sunshine, with its town manager making \$190,388 and its fire chief pulling in \$152,360.

In East Gwillimbury, 22 employees were well paid with their CEO pulling in \$202,071 and their fire chief earning \$146,653.

Georgina had 30 employees make the list. Tops was their CAO with a salary of \$172,000. It has several firefighters and captains over the \$100,000 mark.

Whitchurch-Stouffville had 42 employees in this group, with their CAO earning \$168,000 and the fire chief making \$152,752. Their clerk made \$142,552.

Also by comparison, Premier Kathleen Wynne earned roughly \$209,000 in 2014.

The legislation applies to the provincial government, Crown agencies and corporations; Ontario Power Generation, Hydro One and their subsidiaries; publicly funded organizations such as hospitals, boards of public health, municipalities, school boards, universities and colleges; and organizations that receive transfer payments from the province of at least \$1 million or 10 per cent of their gross revenues, provided the transfer amount was \$120,000 or more.

In the 2012 budget, the government extended the compensation restraint for executives at hospitals, colleges, universities, school boards and agencies until the deficit is eliminated. The government also extended the pay freeze for MPPs for two years for a total of five years.

The province also posts, on a separate website, the expense information for cabinet ministers, political staff, Ontario government senior management, appointees and senior executives at Ontario's 22 largest agencies.

For the full list, visit www.ontario.ca/government/public-sector-salary-disclosure.