

Municipal Elections Act undergoes change

Municipal Affairs Minister John Sweeney introduced changes to the Municipal Elections Act to restrict election contributions and the use of surplus campaign funds.

The legislation will also make it easier for electors to have alleged campaign financing irregularities investigated.

The changes require that a candidate's surplus campaign funds be held in trust by the municipal clerk for use during the next municipal election or applied against past election debts. The

amendments place a limit of \$5,000 on the total amount a contributor can give to all candidates for a single municipality or school board.

The legislation also includes a new enforcement system. Currently, individual electors must take legal action if they believe the law has been broken. Under the new system, the municipality or school board will be responsible for acting on a complaint from an elector. If the municipality or school board fails to take appropriate action, the Provincial Commission on Election Finances can intervene.

"After the 1988 municipal elections there was criticism about how some candidates used their leftover campaign funds," Mr. Sweeney said. "Since then we have consulted with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers. I believe the changes I am introducing today will help remedy the problem.

"The election process is at the very heart of our democratic system, and it is therefore extremely important for people to have faith in it," he said. "The

changes I am introducing today are intended to reassure people that their representatives are acting in the public's best interests at all times."

The legislation includes a number of other amendments, including changes to allow

municipalities to provide election information in languages other than English and French, and to provide an alternative form of ballot for the benefit of visually impaired electors. It also changes the rules on proxy voting to help prevent abuse of the system.

Secondary schools receive grant

Halton secondary schools have received a grant of \$133,855 to support the addition of new technology equipment from the Ministry of Education.

New equipment will be purchased according to the Halton Board of Education's five-year Technological Studies Renewal plan. The grants are the initial phase of a five-year \$60 million process to modernize technological studies.

In addition to the equipment purchasing funds, the ministry has also allotted \$187,500 in matching grants. Grants of \$12,500 will be available each year for five years to match school solicited business and industry finance and equipment donations, assistance or training.

High school programs to receive updated equipment are in the areas of communications, manufacturing, construction and transportation technology.

Halton Board of Education Director, Bob Williams, said the board was praised for having an outstanding plan that is on the leading edge of technological studies in Ontario.

Residents reduce waste stream

Rural residents in Halton Hills and across the Region appear to be doing their bit to help Halton reduce the Region's waste stream by 50 percent by the year 2000, Town Council learned Monday night.

The amount of glass, tin and newspaper waste that rural residents deposited in the region's igloo recycling containers increased by almost 90 percent from April to May of this year, according to a town staff report presented to town councillors.

Specific statistics for Halton Hills are still unavailable, the report stated.

The igloos are bell-shaped containers which either contain one compartment for a certain type of recyclable material or several compartments for several types of recyclables.

There are 58 igloos scattered throughout Halton with most being located in rural areas. "The main use of the igloos is for the collection of rural recyclables, although they can be acquired from the Region for special events," said the report's author, town's manager of operations, Ted Drelow. An igloo was installed at last year's Georgetown Fall Fair, said Mr. Drelow.

Four igloos are currently located in Halton Hills. They are located outside the Speyside General store, at Pineview School, at Cedervale Park and at Prospect Park.

Originally, the town also wanted igloos located at the Limehouse store, in Norval, the Silvercreek Shell station and in Glen Williams. But Mr. Drelow said the Region didn't have enough for all of these locations and at the same time enough for the rest of the Region.

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