

News at a Glance

Pomeroy claims NDP involved in police probe

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

People affiliated with the Milton office of North-Halton MPP Noel Duignan are involved in the initiation of the ongoing police investigation into the activities of Halton elected and non-elected officials, says Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy.

"My sources say, yes, people in the MPP's (Milton) office have been involved," Chairman Pomeroy told Regional Council Wednesday.

Asked by Burlington Regional Councillor Joyce Savoline to clarify the statement, Chairman Pomeroy replied, "they (members of the office), are not under suspicion, but it is my understanding some members of the office brought the issue to the attention of the Solicitor General's office."

A combined forces unit, comprised of officers from Ontario Provincial Police, Metropolitan Toronto Police and York Regional Police, is investigating possible wrongdoings by Halton elected and non-elected officials. The unit is known as Project 80, and as part of its mandate investigates possible connections between developers and politicians.

According to Oakville Regional Coun. John Graham, who has already been interviewed by police as part of the investigation, it's his understanding residents from North-Halton complained to police that certain Halton officials were involved in possible wrongdoings.

Coun. Graham has said several times he thinks Toronto development company Bramalea Limited was promised water and sewage servicing to develop the Arbor Valley Estates property in Georgetown before the company purchased the land in 1989.

In turn, Bramalea Vice-President

Greg Spearn has denied the allegation on several occasions.

Coun. Graham said he informed a group of North-Halton residents, if they wanted an investigation carried out, then they had to go outside the Halton Region Police Force.

Following Wednesday's meeting, Coun. Graham said, one of the people he talked to was associated with Mr. Duignan's Milton office. He wouldn't reveal the person's name.

Contacted Wednesday, Mr. Duignan said it would be improper for him to comment on statements made by Chairman Pomeroy regarding his office since the investigation is ongoing. Once the investigation is completed and the results made public, a press conference will be held, he said.

Chairman Pomeroy said during the meeting he is fully aware of all the names involved in having the investigation started, but he wouldn't reveal them.

"They'll come out as part of the investigation," said Chairman Pomeroy.

The Chairman did say he has contacted the commanding officer of Project 80 and offered his full cooperation, as well as that of his office and Regional staff.

"I don't believe we have anything to hide," he said.

"It saddens me that some people have not only tried to trivialize our activities (in trying to find water and sewage capacity for Georgetown), but they have also tried to criminalize them," added Chairman Pomeroy.

Chairman Pomeroy explained Regional government was formed to deal with the issues of water, sewage and roads. The purpose was to ensure municipalities making up a Region each had a fair chance at receiving the economic benefits that result from the establishment



Pete Pomeroy

of roads, and water and sewage capacity, he said.

It has been particularly hard for the Region to find sufficient water and sewage capacity to service Georgetown's entire urban area, said Chairman Pomeroy. This fact coupled with the lack of provincial funding to help Halton carry out the necessary water and sewage related studies, has required the Region to look to the private sector for financial help, explained Chairman Pomeroy.

Industry has been required to give the Region money up front to carry out water and sewage capacity studies without guarantees that either any servicing would be found, or if it was found, that certain development applications would be approved, said Chairman Pomeroy.

Milton Regional Councillor Bill Johnston told Regional Council Wednesday he wants a public apology from Coun. Graham if Region councillors are exonerated of any wrongdoing as a result of the investigation.

Coun. Johnston said he is being considered for a job with the

provincial government once his municipal political term finishes this November. However, his chances for the position may be jeopardized because of this investigation, he said.

He said Coun. Graham is wrong to be talking to the press while the investigation is ongoing.

"I don't think an apology is necessary. The commander of the investigation has said he doesn't consider the allegations inconsequential," said Coun. Graham following the meeting.

No investigation

Halton Region Planning and Public Works Committee learned Wednesday staff is not actively investigating where in Halton an Energy from Waste, (EFW) plant could be established.

An EFW plant converts garbage into energy.

Regional Public Works Commissioner Art Leitch told committee members the search for an EFW location has been put on hold until the province clarifies its position on the issue.

Earlier this year Ontario Environment Minister Ruth Grier announced the province opposed the creation of new EFW plants.

However, the Region was instructed in 1989 by the province to establish an EFW plant as a condition of receiving approval to establish a landfill in Milton.

Mr. Leitch informed committee members a staff report would be forthcoming explaining Halton's position concerning this apparent contradiction.

Some committee members said the Region should continue its search for an EFW plant location until the province passes legislation ban-

nning the establishment of these types of facilities.

Minister sympathetic

Chairman Peter Pomeroy informed Regional Planning and Public Works Committee members Wednesday he had recently met with Ontario Environment Minister Ruth Grier to discuss the high costs of garbage disposal.

Chairman Pomeroy said he told Ms. Grier the cost of establishing the Halton landfill site in Milton will make it difficult for the Region to improve its 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle), programs.

The Chairman also speculated the landfill's high cost will force industrial and commercial companies to deposit their waste at landfills other than the one in Halton.

That will mean a loss of potential revenue gained through tipping fees, predicted Chairman Pomeroy. Companies must pay a tipping fee in order to gain access to a landfill.

The minister was sympathetic to the Region's problems, but she didn't offer any money to help the Region, he said.

Well testing

Regional staff has learned if Acton's Prospect Well is pumped at slightly greater than a million gallons per day, there could be a draw-down effect on the level of Fairy Lake.

Art Leitch, Halton Public Works Commissioner, told Regional councillors Wednesday this finding is a result of recent testing of the Prospect Park Well and the effect increased pumping levels may have on Fairy Lake and the nearby Black Creek basin.

Mr. Leitch said final results concerning the testing won't be available until sometime in November.

Regional Council challenger files a complaint

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

Ward 4 Regional Councillor candidate, Linda Walton, has filed a complaint with the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ontario Commission on Election Finances in connection with a meeting held Tuesday in a Georgetown South subdivision.

Ms. Walton contends local municipal incumbent candidates, Mayor Russ Miller, Ward 4 Regional councillor Marilyn Serjeantson and Ward 4 Town councillor Al Cook violated the Municipal Elections Act while hosting an "Open House" Tuesday at the Fernbrooke Sales Centre for Canada Homes subdivision residents east of the Ninth Line.

"The use of public property and materials in this presentation constitutes, in our opinion and the opinion of our counsel, an apparent contribution by the governments of Halton Hills and Halton Region to the campaign of the host candidates - a contribution in violation of the Municipal Elections Act," Ms. Walton writes in a press release.

Roy Snider, Financial Filing Officer for the Ontario Commission on Election Finances, confirmed Thursday Ms. Walton's complaint had

been filed with the office, as well as with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

The complaint could "quite possibly" go before the commission sometime during the upcoming week, said Mr. Snider.

Mr. Snider explained a candidates' right to use municipal documents during an election campaign is dictated by the municipality's policy on releasing public information. Prospective candidates have the same rights as any other individual to access information in accordance with the municipality's policies, explained Mr. Snider.

Halton Hills Administrator Dan Costea said public municipal information, such as reports or other documents, can be reviewed by any member of the public. Depending on the document's size, the Town will either photocopy the information or charge an individual to have the information photocopied.

According to the flyer the three incumbents distributed to Georgetown South residents, the purpose of the Open House was to discuss plans for the subdivision, neighborhood parks, the community park, Mountainview Road

reconstruction and the planning process.

Contacted Thursday, Mayor Miller said the "meeting was definitely not political." The meeting resulted from letters sent to the Town from Georgetown South residents in August concerning work still scheduled for their subdivision, he said.

Mr. Cook agreed with Mayor

Miller saying there was nothing political about the meeting. "It was an information meeting. There was no election material present at the meeting," said Mr. Cook.

Ms. Walton wrote in a release, "in door-to-door canvassing of Georgetown South area, I was given copies of the 'Open House' invitation delivered there. I was also extended a personal invitation by

several area residents to attend one of the two evening sessions."

The three incumbents held a similar meeting Oct. 23 for Fernbrooke Homes subdivision residents, west of the Ninth Line.

Although Ms. Walton doesn't live in the Georgetown South subdivision, the Ward she is contesting includes this area.

No holds barred in Ballinafad

By BEN DUMMETT
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No one can accuse Halton Hills residents of being apathetic towards the ongoing municipal election campaign.

A packed house grilled mayoralty candidate Rob Barlow on several issues including water, development and Norval's Willow Park, during an all-candidates meeting Wednesday sponsored by the Hickory Falls Ratepayers Association at the Ballinafad Community Centre.

Participants in the meeting included Ward 2 Town councillor candidates Alf Spence, Rob Heaton and Kathy Gastle, Ward 2 Regional councillor candidate Bill Robson and Ward 4 Regional councillor candidate Linda Walton.

Candidates who declined an invitation to participate due to prior commitments included mayoralty candidate Russ Miller, Ward 4 Regional councillor candidate Marilyn Serjeantson, Ward 2 Regional councillor candidate Joe Hewitt and Ward 3 Regional councillor candidate Pam Johnston.

Norval's Willow Park was one of the most hotly contested issues during the debate.

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority has obtained an eviction order to have the residents of Willow Park removed from the property three months following a

compensation hearing scheduled for this February. The hearing will determine how much the CVCA should compensate the residents for evicting them from the property.

Although all of the candidates expressed sympathy for the residents' plight, none could offer answers to the question that if elected, what would they do to help the residents?

However, the non-incumbents all said the residents have been treated

poorly by the Town and the Conservation Authority.

As an incumbent, Alf Spence was questioned several times and asked to defend the Town's handling of the Willow Park situation.

He said the Town had approved a relocation site in Acton for the residents but it was rejected by the Ontario Municipal Board, (OMB), on an appeal by residents neighboring the proposed location.

Posties playing it cool

Georgetown and Acton Canada Post workers will not be walking off the job despite the current stalemate in contract negotiations between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, said Darrell Moore, President of CUPW local 542 for Georgetown and Acton.

Alan Gold, the Federal government mediator assigned to resolve the differences between Canada Post workers and management announced Wednesday he had given up in his attempts to work out a compromise between the two feuding sides.

Mr. Gold bowed out of the negotiations after almost seven weeks of trying to negotiate a settlement.

Mr. Moore said CUPW National

President Jean-Claude Parrot has told the locals to stay on the job because he still believes a negotiated settlement can be reached.

There are still 15 outstanding issues, including wages, job security, benefits and contracting out workers, still on the table.

"I believe CUPW is trying its best to work out an agreement with Canada Post," said Mr. Moore.

The federal government has introduced legislation banning postal workers from going on strike as a precautionary measure.

According to Halton-Peel MP, Garth Turner, several Georgetown postal workers had approached him during the recent postal disruption to support this kind of legislation if it was ever tabled in the Commons.

Georgetown on CBC

From London to Kingston to Penetanguishine, CBC radio listeners will be discovering Georgetown through CIBC Bonjour, the French morning program. Tune in to 860 am on your radio dial on October 31st from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

CBC's morning crew will be broadcasting LIVE from Sacre-Coeur School. Over 150,000 listeners will learn about our town. Prominent members of the community will be featured and will be discussing the history of Georgetown with particular emphasis on its francophone community.

There are over 1,200 francophones in the Halton Hills region whose roots go back to the late 1800's. Their continued presence is a tribute to their efforts to maintain the French language and culture through institutions such as Sacre-Coeur School and Sacre-Coeur Church.

Members of the community are welcome to drop by the school to say Bonjour.