

Election complaint by candidate put on hold

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

The province's Ministry of Municipal Affairs is unlikely to investigate an election-related complaint filed against local incumbent candidates Russ Miller,

Marilyn Serjeantson and Al Cook, the Herald has learned.

Ward 4 Regional councillor candidate Linda Walton filed the complaint with the ministry's office and the Commission of Election Finances last week in connection with a

meeting hosted by Mr. Miller, Ms. Serjeantson and Mr. Cook for the residents of Georgetown South.

Paul Jones, Manager of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs Central Office, wrote in an Oct. 29 letter to Ms. Walton, (a copy of which was

obtained by the Herald) "it would appear to us, (the ministry), that there is no contravention of provincial legislation nor have the incumbent members of council referred to in your notice acted in an inappropriate manner. The meeting in question would appear to have been one to discuss municipal business."

Ms. Walton contends the three incumbents violated the Municipal Elections Act while hosting an Open House at 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 council, an apparent contribution by the governments of Halton Hills and the Region to the campaigns of the host candidates - a contribution in violation of the Municipal Elections Act," Ms. Walton wrote in a press release.

According to the ministry letter, "individuals currently on council are empowered to meet with constituents of their choosing throughout their term in office. They may hold meetings without the express permission of council at such locations as they consider appropriate. Council may also call upon local and regional departments for resource material in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities."

Contacted Monday Ms. Walton said the ministry's correspondence won't deter her from pursuing the matter.

"I feel what they did was wrong and I will continue to feel it was wrong," she said angrily.

Ms. Walton said she is currently investigating further options in order to pursue the matter.

The Ward 4 candidate said she takes exception to the ministry letter.

Ms. Walton points out, in his letter, Mr. Jones writes that the Ministry "does not have an enforcement role with respect to the matter raised nor do we wish to prejudice any position or decision of the Commission on Election Finances. However, Ministry staff have reviewed the material submitted and made certain enquiries."

In response Mr. Walton writes in a release, "they (Mr. Jones), say they do not wish to prejudice any position or decision of the Commission of Election Finances, but then, "they (Mr. Jones) go on, in what we must consider to be interpretative comments without proper substance or due consideration, to discuss their views of the matter."

As reported in the Wednesday edition of the Herald, the Commission of Election Finances contends the complaint will only be heard, if at all, by the Commission after June 30, 1992. That's the deadline by which municipal candidates must file their financial statements in connection with the upcoming Nov. 12 election.

According to the commission office, the complaint will first be filed with the Clerk's office in Halton Hills. At that time the Clerk's office will submit the complaint to the council of the day for consideration. If council members decide not to deal with the complaint, then Ms. Walton has the opportunity to appeal the complaint to the commission.

Ms. Walton finds fault with this process, saying "I feel this (process) is like asking the fox to look into who has been killing the chickens in the barnyard."

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British choir visits

The Ricksworth Mansonic School Senior Choir from Great Britain was back by popular demand to perform for a packed house at the Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown, Wednesday. The 39-member choir, whose members range in age from 14 to 18, first visited Georgetown four years ago. Concert organizer Norm Holt said choir members enjoyed themselves so much during their last

visit they wanted to visit again during their current tour. Aside from visiting various Canadian locations the choir is also scheduled to travel to several locations in the United States. As part of Wednesday's concert, the Georgetown Choral Society also performed a number of pieces from its extensive repertoire. (Herald Photo)



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