

Project 80 officers search regional chairman's files

By **STUART JOHNSTON**
Staff writer

Halton chairman Pete Pomeroy and a prominent Georgetown lawyer's homes and offices were searched Wednesday by members of the joint forces police squad investigating allegations of municipal corruption within the region.

The governmental affairs unit, commonly known as Project 80, simultaneously executed search warrants on Pomeroy's home and regional office in Oakville, as well as those of local real estate lawyer Bert Arnold, Detective Cst. Gary Spiers confirmed Thursday.

Pomeroy lives in Norval, while Arnold resides in Georgetown south.

Arnold's office, Arnold and Banbury, is located at 211 Guelph St., Georgetown.

Spiers and his colleagues have been investigating allegations of wrongdoing involving elected and non-elected officials within Halton for the past 15 months. Spiers' unit is comprised of handpicked officers from Metro, York and the Ontario Provincial Police.

Although Spiers declined to be more specific about what they were searching for, he admitted documents from the four locations were removed and sealed by the officers.

No arrests or charges were laid, he stressed, noting the investigation is still ongoing. He could not com-



PETER POMEROY



BERT ARNOLD

ment on whether the investigation is nearing a close, or whether other search warrants have been executed in the past.

"In order to keep the integrity of

the investigation, and of the people involved, I can't comment anymore on that," Spiers said.

In an interview Wednesday afternoon, Pomeroy confirmed that Project 80 officers were "reviewing my (office) records today," adding he "has no idea" what they were looking for.

He admitted officers had previously interviewed Halton staff and searched records in other departments such as the planning and development offices, and reasoned his records were just the next step in the police probe. This is the first time investigators have reviewed his files, according to Pomeroy.

"I saw them in my office, but

there was no discussion with them," he added. Pomeroy was conducting the regional council meeting during the time of the searches.

Despite repeated attempts, Bert Arnold could not be reached for comment before press time.

When the investigation initially began, only two officers from the joint forces team were assigned to the case. However, four additional police officers joined the team after their probe into York Region officials concluded earlier this year. That investigation, which began in late 1990, resulted in 128 charges of municipal corruption against two city of York aldermen, a Metro councillor and four businessmen.

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News

Digest

Meet Santa Claus today

Join the merchants of downtown Georgetown today, between noon and 5 p.m. for some good old fashioned Christmas cheer. Meet Santa Claus. Today only, at the BIA office, 116 Mill St. when you pay \$40 in cash, the BIA will give you \$50 in downtown dollars redeemable at businesses with the Georgetown BIA. Only \$5,000 sold, First come, first served. Maximum of \$100 per family.

Fire routes

Councillors designated new fire routes within two Georgetown developments. Four internal roads within Law's Kingsmill development, located west of Mountainview Rd. at River Dr., are now designated as a fire route. They are Corey Circle, Brian Lane, Edwin Lane and Beverly Lane. As well, the driveway leading to Cote Terrace seniors apartments at Main and Maple has also been tagged a fire route.

Free parking

In the spirit of Christmas there will be free parking in downtown Georgetown through-

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"Consider yourself one of the family"

Dapper little Jack Dawkins, better known as "The Artful Dodger" (Corey Rivers) introduces himself to Oliver Twist (Stephanie Scott) in the streets of London as Georgetown Globe Productions current musical "Oliver" opened Thursday night at John Elliott Theatre. The musical about the band of Victorian London pickpocket orphans continues its run until December 5.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Council opts for one per cent raise

Halton regional councillors narrowly overturned a previous committee decision to freeze salaries, instead opting for a one per cent raise retroactively for 1992 and another for 1993.

In all, councillors and the regional chairman will enjoy a grand total of \$10,235 more collectively, to Dec. 1, 1993.

What it means is each councillor's base salary of \$18,337 is retroactively increased from Dec. 1, 1991 by \$183, and again by another \$185 beginning this December.

Chairman Pete Pomeroy's salary will rise similarly by \$698 and \$705, respectively, bringing his total to \$71,226 annually.

Last week, a regional finance committee narrowly voted to freeze their pay for another year. However, the Wednesday vote was a close 12-10 in favor of an increase, but not before long arguments on both sides were heard.

Locally, only councillors Pam Johnston and Rick Bonnette voted against the raise, while mayor Russ Miller and councillors Bill Robson and Marilyn Serjeantson supported it.

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Tactical unit responds to domestic dispute

A 25-year-old Acton man was charged with assault in connection with a domestic incident that occurred in a residence in that community Wednesday afternoon.

Police say they received a call at about 1:10 p.m. from a woman who claimed her common-law husband had assaulted her and taken their two-month old daughter.

Police report the couple had become involved in a dispute; the accused left briefly then returned as the wife was leaving home with daughter. Police say there was an altercation between the couple, the woman was assaulted and fled without the child.

Police arrived and contacted the man by phone. Police say he refused to give up the child or leave the home and was acting in an irrational manner.

Police sealed off the area and the Tactical and Rescue Unit (TRU) was called along with a police negotiator. Police say that through negotiations it was determined no weapons were involved.

Police report the man came out of the house at about 3:25 p.m. He was arrested and the child was found unharmed. Police add the woman did not require medical attention.



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