

Project 80, a task force investigating alleged improprieties of elected and non-elected officials in Halton, have laid charges against four people, including regional chairman Peter Pomeroy. According to police, the charges relate to

real estate properties in Sarasota, Florida, and a company in Ontario. Above is a Sarasota condominium complex, in which former Halton Hills mayor Peter Pomeroy and Ab Photo by STUART JOHNSTON Tennant own units.

'Hopes he won't step down'

Local councillors support Pomeroy

By LISA TALLYN Staff writer

Of the Halton Hills councillors polled, only one said Peter Pomeroy should step down as regional chairman while awaiting his day in court on charges of breach of trust and accepting a secret commission.

At press time Pomeroy had not made a move to leave the position.

"No, he's not stepping down at this time," said Pomeroy's secretary, Colleen Chutko. Pomeroy could not be reached for comment.

Chutko added there is no legislation or bylaw that requires Pomeroy step down after facing such charges.

Pomeroy was charged Thursday morning at the Burlington OPP detachment. Also charged were Pat Crimmins, the deputy clerk of Halton region, Georgetown lawyer Bert Arnold and Georgetown developer Albert Tennant.

"He is elected (by regional councillors) for the full term until November 1994," said Chutko. "It's up to him to decide."

Chutko added that Pomeroy is conducting business as usual, and attended a meeting in Toronto Thursday afternoon after he was charged.

Chutko said that a special meeting of council could be called to discuss the situation, but one has not been called yet.

Halton Hills regional councillor Rick Bonnette said he was surprised to hear of the four charges but "had a feeling something was going to break soon."

"I don't think Peter should step down from the chair position," said Bonnette. "He is the best chairman Halton Region has ever had."

Other Halton Hills regional councillors Pam Johnston and Marilyn Serjeantson both think Pomeroy should continue on as chairman.

"I would definitely not recommend that he step aside," said Johnston. "Peter Pomeroy has put Halton region on the map."

"Everybody is innocent until proven guilty," said Serjeantson. "Peter has done a very good job as regional chairman."

Serjeantson added that she was surprised that charges were laid so long after the police investigation

The only Halton Hills regional councillor who says Pomeroy should step aside temporarily is Bill

"He should step down with pay until this is resolved, so he can defend himself against these allegations," said Robson.

"I'm disappointed but not surprised," by the charges, added Robson.

Acton councillor Norm Elliott said he was surprised to learn of the charges against Pomeroy, and the others.

"I am not going to pre-judge anything," said Elliott. "He has been an excellent regional chairman, and represented this area very well."

Elliott added the situation was sad news, and he is hopeful that Pomeroy will be around to help Halton Hills with the Acton water and development issue.

Mayor Russ Miller was not available for comment.



12-4 p.m.



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