

# Councillors won't support comments made by Heaton

By LISA TALLYN  
Staff writer

Halton Hills council made it clear at Tuesday's meeting that comments made by councillor Rob Heaton on tax reform didn't reflect the views of council.

That message was the crux of a recommendation moved by Acton councillor Rick Bonnette and passed by council. The mayor was also requested to write to the three Halton Hills citizens who served on the Halton Citizen's Committee for Property Tax Reform and tell them about council's resolution.

The situation was ignited at council when Georgetown resident Molly Monahan, a member of the citizen's committee, sent a letter to council outlining concerns local members of the committee had about Heaton's comments. The comments were included in the final agenda at a special meeting dealing with tax reform held at Halton Region in September.

Before Monahan spoke, Heaton said he would have to leave the council table "based on conflict of interest rules."

"The reason all of this started was about Heaton's letter describing the citizen's committee," said Monahan. "When his letter appeared I couldn't explain it."

"The final impact of this study (change) to the residents has not been communicated in a proper way..." wrote Heaton in the letter. "The dollar impact to the taxpayers in this town have not been properly notified. The whole proposal is a total sham."

Last week Heaton said his comments were misunderstood.

Monahan said she did not get an explanation from Heaton regarding the comments.

"What I got was not an explanation, but I found him standing in my kitchen threatening



ROB HEATON

to sue me through my back door," said Monahan. Monahan said she wanted council to get an explanation from Heaton.

"Did you ever contact him to see what he meant," asked councillor Kathy Gastle of Monahan.

"No I did not because he didn't show up at any of the meetings," said Monahan.

"We're proud of you, and the way you operated" said councillor Gerald Rennie to Monahan.

"(Heaton's comments) are worth nothing. You did a tremendous job. We don't understand Mr. Heaton's comments either. He's in error."

Bonnette said he was not out to tell Heaton what he can or can't say, "but his views don't reflect the collective views of this council."

When Bonnette put forward his recommendation Heaton cautioned council they should seek legal advice on even receiving

Monahan's letter because they could be considered to be party to a libel.

Three councillors didn't support Bonnette's recommendation; Gail Rutherford, Gastle and Ron Chatten.

"This is a non-issue," said Gastle after the vote. "Why are we Rob Heaton bashing. Who is determining that Heaton is representing council in his remarks."

On Wednesday Heaton said he was surprised the issue was raised at council.

"I thought it was a dead issue."

He added he went to Monahan's house to deliver a letter which stated that if Monahan submitted her letter for publication he would have to consider legal action.

"Verbal comments are one thing but putting them out on paper is another matter totally," said Heaton.

He called Bonnette's recommendation a "sneak attack," and added it was "personal rather than professional."

HALTON HILLS

# WEEKEND

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## News

### Digest

#### Public input

The Bylaws Committee of the Halton Board of Education is inviting interested members of the public to make their opinions on the board's bylaws known at a special meeting on Tuesday, October 19, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Board Room of the J.W. Singleton Centre, 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington. Those wishing to make a presentation should contact Rae Stoness, Superintendent of Policy and Planning, at (905) 335-3663, extension 3345, to establish a time for the presentation. Twenty copies of your written submission would be appreciated to distribute at the meeting. Presentation will be scheduled for 10 minutes. For more information please call (905) 335-3663, extension 3345.

#### Panty thief back

About a dozen panties were taken from a clothes line in Georgetown Monday, October 11. The same thing happened twice a few years ago, police said.

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## Chretien on campaign trail

Federal Liberal leader Jean Chretien put Halton Hills on his campaigning map, when he visited Acton on Wednesday afternoon. Chretien was given a warm welcome and a quick tour of Acton Precision Millwrights Ltd. by

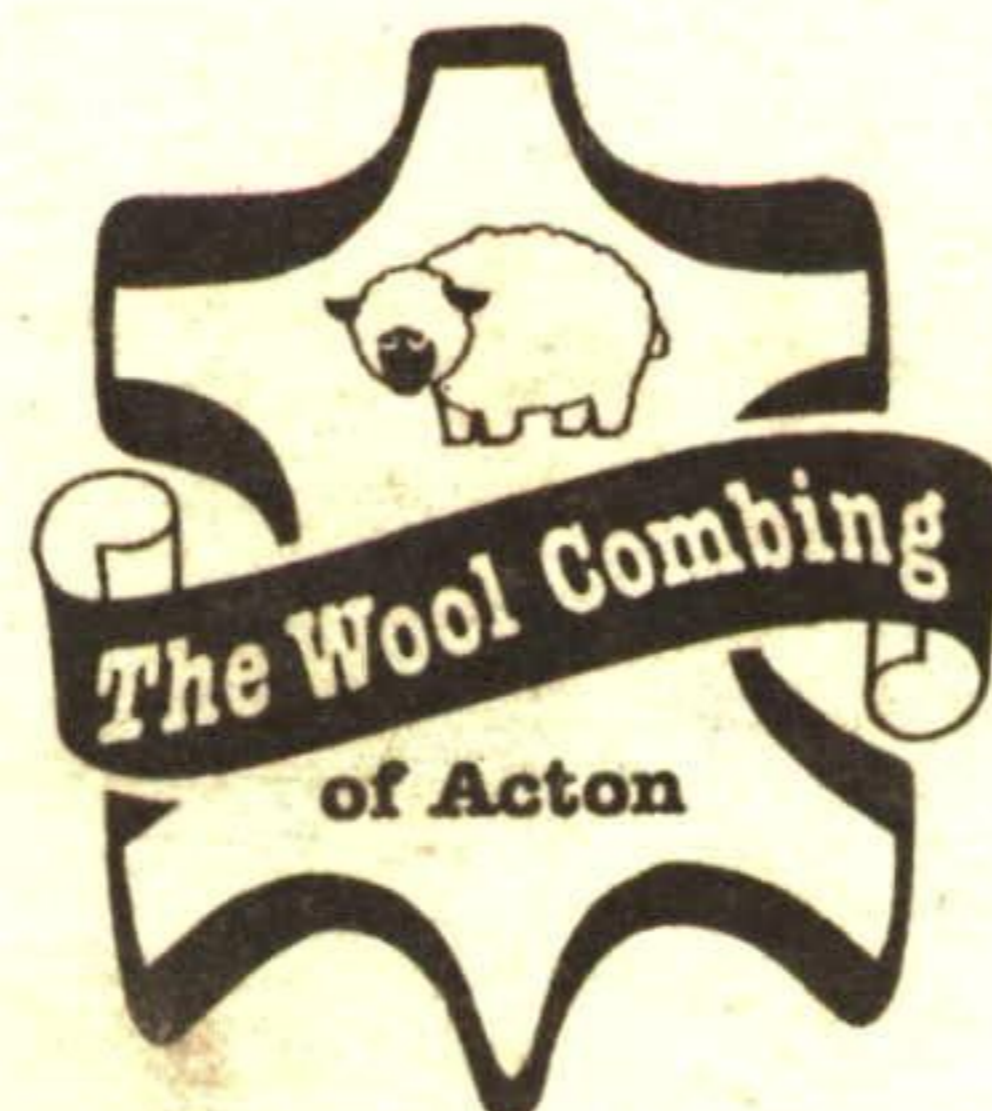
Halton/Peel Liberal candidate Julian Reed and company owner Ted Lyons. For a complete story see page 7.

Photo by LAURA SALVERDA

# Another Acton Tradition

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The Wool Combing of Acton, located at 12 Church Street East, is now open!



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