

Halton Hills loses part-time firefighters in union dispute

Continued from page 1

I can tell you that two of the three two hatters resigned some weeks ago and the other person works with the department on a part-time basis, wrote deHooze in an e-mailed statement.

While common in many smaller Ontario communities, two-hatting is strictly forbidden by full-time firefighting unions in Ontario, which is one of only two provinces left in Canada alongside Newfoundland and Labrador without legislation on the books to protect firefighters' right to do so.

The sanctions levied against the remaining three Halton Hills part-timers by a peer-staffed tribunal panel included suspension from the union and resulting lost benefits. It also included a \$500 monthly fine for six months for a total fine of \$3,500. After six months, the monthly fine is set to increase to \$1,000. It would then increase to a monthly amount of \$1,500 after a year, and finally up to \$2,000 per month should the violation persist after 18 months.

Those penalties have proven too stiff for three of the men facing them, who have since resigned and seen their sanc-



File photo

tions lifted. The situation surrounding the remaining Halton Hills part-timer and his Mississauga union is unclear at this time, but it has been confirmed he is still working part-time in Halton Hills.

According to a source within the department, who spoke under the condition of anonymity in January, the tribunal caused quite a stir and some division among the ranks of the Halton Hills department.

The source described the four men as among the department's most experienced, and said some among the department were concerned about losing their expertise.

A similar situation is currently playing out in Caledon, with six of its two hatters set to face a tribunal in Brampton on May 15. The Town of Caledon has publicly backed their two hatters and offered them

financial support, something the source within the Halton Hills department said only added to divisions within the rank and file over the issue.

Caledon FD is going through a similar situation, however the difference being is that the Town of Caledon has rallied behind their firefighters and is not only providing emotional support, but has committed to paying legal fees and fines for their two hatters. The Town of Halton Hills has turned its back on ours and they have been hung out to dry, they said.

At the time, deHooze explained the reason Halton Hills was not supporting their two hatters in the same way as Caledon is because Halton Hills does not require two hatters to fill its ranks.

deHooze said the town is in the process of phasing out its remaining two hatters through attrition as part of a multi-year plan.

We value (our two hatters), we respect them, (but) the whole issue is a fight between them and their parent associations, said deHooze following the tribunal verdict in February.

GEORGETOWN LOCATION ONLY

Win A **Mother's Day Gift**

1ST PRIZE
WIN A MAID FOR A DAY

2ND PRIZE
SURPRISE GIFT BAG*

Natura

Receive a ballot for a chance to win a Maid of a Day.

Ask for details.

Natura

*Products may not be exactly as shown

Draw Date: May 6th

Price Match Promise 100% *See store for details

www.unitedlumber.ca

UNITED LUMBER Home hardware building centre

Like us on • www.unitedlumber.ca

ELIZABETHS
119 MILL STREET, DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN

think spring!

TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 30% OFF ALL SALE ITEMS

ELIZABETHSFASHIONS@GMAIL.COM
905.873.1470 // BRIDALSPLENDOR.COM

Terra Cotta COOKIE CO.

RETAIL OUTLET

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA!
Celebrate Canada's 150th with **NEW Maple Leaf Cookies**

Pre-order today

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Monday-Friday
9am-5pm

Ice Dawgs available now!

9-36 Armstrong Avenue, Georgetown 905.877.4216 www.terracottacookies.com