

Support for Pomeroy varies at local level

By Oksana Buhel

Halton Region Chairman and former Town of Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy, has differing levels of support from local municipal and regional councillors after being charged Thursday with two counts of Breach of Trust, and two counts of Accepting Secret Commissions.

The charges stemmed from a one-and-a-half-year Project 80 investigation into allegations of

impropriety involving elected and non-elected public officials in Halton Region.

Charged along with Pomeroy Thursday were his wife Pat Crimmins, Georgetown lawyer Bert Arnold and former Georgetown developer Ab Tennant.

Crimmins, Arnold and Tennant each face one count of Offer a Secret Commission.

Pomeroy plans to continue con-

ducting business as usual, at least until his June 22 court date.

"Mr. Pomeroy has no plans of stepping down," insisted Colleen Chutko, Pomeroy's secretary.

Attempts to reach Pomeroy either at the chairman's office or at his home in Norval to verify this claim were unsuccessful.

Chutko also said a meeting will be set with regional councillors to discuss Pomeroy's situation, but

that a date for the meeting has not been set.

Councillors Rick Bonnette, Marilyn Serjeantson and Pam Johnston shared the view that Pomeroy was innocent until proven guilty, and should not give up his post. "Peter has done a lot of very positive things for the region," said Johnston, "and there's no reason he should step down until he is proven guilty."

Councillor Bill Robson differed in his opinion. "I think Mr. Pomeroy should step down until this issue has been resolved. I would be happy to propose full pay, but he should give his full attention to clearing his name. It's not fair to him or anyone else if he continues as chair."

Town of Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller refused comment on the matter.

The People's Forum

A cynical public takes Project 80 charges in stride

Following the revelation last Thursday that Halton Region Chairman Peter Pomeroy and three

others had been charged by Project 80 investigators, Halton Hills This Week ventured to Georgetown

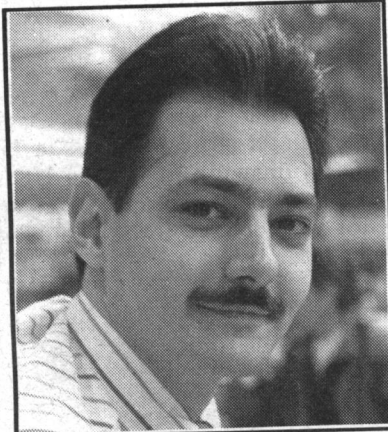
Marketplace and asked, in an informal poll, the question - "What is your reaction to allegations of cor-

ruption involving elected and non-elected officials in Halton Region." The reactions varied from dismay

to outrage, but clearly, cynicism with officialdom permeated the answers.



Albert Hagen, Medicine Hat, Alta. - "Things are definitely different here. Where I come from, we don't really notice it."



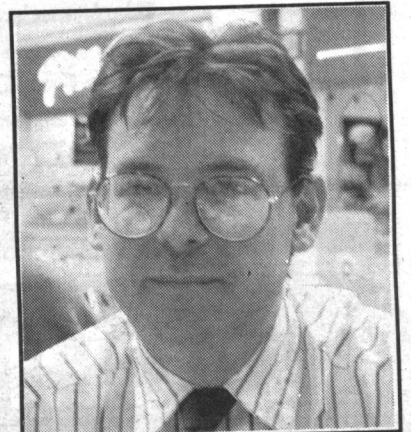
Frank Dellamaestra, Georgetown - "They're all bums. They make too much money for nothing."



Delynne Morrison, Milton - "I'm really surprised that something like this could happen in Halton. It's so close to home."



Oana Ursachi, Georgetown - "Now I have a feeling of distrust. It's shattered my hopes in people I should trust."



Darrell Day, Mississauga, - "I think they're all the same. Politics is scratch my back, I'll scratch yours."

Halton Hills

THIS WEEK

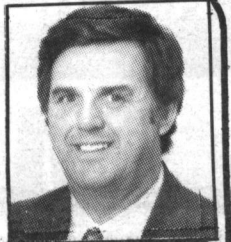
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Acton water blockage springs leak

At Monday's Town of Halton Hills general committee meeting, municipal director of planning Ian Keith, informed councillors that Acton residents would indeed be given a higher priority than fish. Keith presented a summation of Friday's meeting with Town and Regional staff, staff from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ministry of Natural Resources, Credit Valley Conservation Authority and the Ministry of the Environment and Energy regarding the pumping of one million gallons of water in Acton.

At last week's council meeting, representatives from the Department of Fisheries and Ocean and the Ministry of the Environment and Energy stated they would need a two-year moratorium to study the effects which pumping that amount of water would have on the environment. Several councillors expressed

strong disapproval with the proposal.

Tentative agreement

Keith's summation explained that both agencies came to a "tentative" agreement with the region on Friday - that the MOE would immediately issue a two-year permit to take water (PPTW) if the region agreed to assume responsibility for fish and fish habitat and to monitor the Black Creek base flows, temperature, chlorine and ammonia levels, as well as Fairy Lake and associated wetlands.

Town of Halton Hills Engineer, Bob Austin, said the region would "likely" pay for the monitoring program.

The region would also have to come to a "compensation agreement" with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, but the terms of this agreement were not specified.

The final stipulation is that the

certificate of approval for the Acton Sewage Treatment Plant would remain, but the region would have to take on a process audit study and implement operational and minor capital improvements during the two years.

Councillors' reactions were mixed.

Mixed reaction

Norm Elliot said this was a "quantum change from what was announced last week (May 10). It's the best news I've heard for a while." Councillors Rick Bonnette and Gerald Rennie agreed with Elliot. Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson expressed concern the agreement was "temporary." She asked whether the PPTW could be revoked at any time and was told by Austin this was possible. Austin added that she (Serjeantson) should not be concerned since the word "temporary" did not appear in the recommendations.



Memories of Lucy Maud Montgomery were relived at the "Old Time Concert" last Sunday at the Norval Parish Hall. Pictured above Holly Thompson and Derek Gastle sang the "Milkmaid" song to a packed hall which included Gemini award winner Cedric Smith from the CBC production, Road to Avonlea, adapted from the Lucy Maud Montgomery novel. More coverage to follow in Halton Hills This Weekend. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

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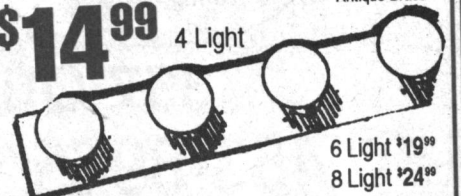
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