

# Heaton's conduct called into question

A Georgetown resident, who is fed up with the performance of a local councillor, feels that her concerns are being ignored.

Molly Monahan, member of the Halton Citizens' Committee on Property Tax Reform (HCCPTR), said she has complained several times to Town of Halton Hills councillors about the conduct of Ward 2 councillor Rob Heaton at HCCPTR meetings, but nothing had been done.

At Monday's general committee meeting, Monahan distributed a written complaint about Heaton, asking council to "seriously consider whether Councillor Heaton is competent to represent the Town of Halton Hills on any future committees or serve as an appointed emissary in any fashion." For the complaint to be discussed, it had to be introduced by one of the councillors as new business. It was not.

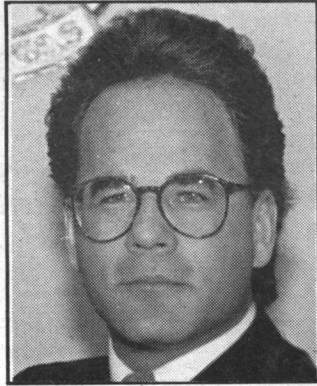
Both Town of Halton Hills administrator Ray King and town clerk Janet Lunn-Stewart have acknowledged receiving a copy of

Monahan's written complaint

Monahan said what finally influenced her to submit her complaint was Heaton's written, and much circulated, comments regarding the tax reform issue.

After a Sept. 14 HCCPTR meeting, during which the recommendations of the committee were discussed, Heaton wrote his opinions on a public comment sheet. He insisted the "final impact of the study (change) to the residents has not been communicated in a proper way." Heaton added, citizens will be unable to communicate their support or opposition to the changes to their own municipal council. He concluded, "the whole proposal is a total sham!!!"

Monahan, in her circulated letter, pointed out how much work the three volunteers from each of the four munic-



Rob Heaton

ipalities put in studying the proposed market value assessment legislation. "What can be less of a 'sham' than a committee which represents a genuine cross section of the people of the region,"

Monahan demanded. She requested "an apology to the committee for his (Heaton's) pointless and rude letter."

Heaton explained he was not referring to the committee or its report as a sham, but the role of the region in the study. "I don't think the region should provide less services for more taxes," he said.

He pointed out his concern for his Ward 2 constituents, some of whose taxes would increase by 10-20 per cent because of the size of their rural property. "I have to represent their needs too," Heaton said.

Monahan did not agree. She pointed out the market

value assessment study was for the entire region, and added "every recommendation (in the committee's report) was good for Halton Hills."

Monahan disapproved of the fact Heaton signed his complaint "Councillor Rob Heaton."

"He made it appear he was representing the views of the town," Monahan said, "when, in fact, he wasn't." She added town council should ask for an apology from Heaton. Monahan said Heaton should also apologize to his constituents who "must realize the difference between using one's position to make welcome changes in an inherently imperfect system and using his title as an excuse for venting his anger at anyone and anything that represents authority."

Monahan was also upset about Heaton's input during HCCPTR meetings.

Heaton was an alternate to Councillor Rick Bonnette, who was the town's representative on the committee. Monahan said each municipality had one town repre-

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**Norma Peterson**  
Canada's New Democrats

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Last Wednesday, Halton-Peel New Democratic Party candidate Norma Peterson was joined by Halton North MPP Noel Duignan and campaign supporters, to officially open her campaign headquarters located at 330 Guelph Street in Georgetown. The campaign office telephone number is 702-0062.

Photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

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Libertarian party volunteers John Shadbolt (left) and Pat Galton were busy last week putting up signs for their party's Halton-Peel candidate, Hilliard Cox. Shadbolt reported it appeared an inordinate number of Libertarian signs had been found on the ground lately. "Maybe it was the wind," he mused.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

## Leaders debates merit praise

Halton-Peel MP and PC candidate Garth Turner said Monday he was encouraged by the vigorous debate waged on two nights this week by Prime Minister Kim Campbell and the leaders of the major national parties.

"Canadians can now see more clearly where the parties stand on the major issues: jobs, eliminating the deficit and the future of Canada.

"I think Kim Campbell clearly demonstrated that there is only one party which has a plan to both create jobs and get rid of the deficit," Turner said. "Similarly, only the Conservatives have now promised to eliminate the deficit without raising taxes, bringing in new taxes or cutting a single dollar from important social programs like senior's pensions."

Turner also noted Jean Chretien's reluctance to say he would not raise taxes, nor bring in cuts to reduce the size

of government and stop the national debt from growing.

Meanwhile, Turner questioned Preston Manning's refusal to criticize separatist leader Lucien Bouchard's drive towards Quebec independence and the breakup of Canada.

"Based on these two debates," Turner said, "I expect new energy and confidence among Conservative ranks. The fact we have the only realistic plan for Canada is now obvious to all those who tuned in to this great exercise in democracy.

## Deficit numbers rising

In a Canadian Press story, datelined Tuesday from Vancouver, Halton-Peel Progressive Conservative candidate and National Revenue Minister Garth Turner, admitted Canada's deficit could be even higher than forecast in the spring by his party.

In the Canadian Press story, Turner said he wouldn't be surprised if the deficit is \$3 billion higher than predicted. Turner suggested, however, this could be corrected.

The governing PCs had put the deficit at \$32.6 billion in its spring budget.

In the English language televised leaders debate last Monday, PC Prime Minister-designate Kim Campbell wouldn't answer Bloc Quebecois leader Lucien Bouchard's repeated requests to give an exact figure on Canada's current deficit.

In the CP story, Turner said revenues are flat and the government has had trouble collecting taxes owed, in explaining the increasing deficit numbers.

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