

Ratepayers lash out at Councillors

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In his statement Heaton said if he doesn't get his apology he will take legal action.

"You (Council and staff) have collectively made a mockery of the political process in attempting to make me a victim," Heaton read. "I am not a victim and will not be coerced by your futile attempts to have me toe your desired line. You must now correct the record or suffer appropriate damages."

There was no debate or comment on Heaton's statement.

The call for Rick Bonnette's job and Counc. Johnston's threat of lawsuits were levelled during public delegations on Halton Region's efforts to take development control from the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC).

Acton resident Jean Hilborn launched a scathing attack on Bonnette for his support of the development control shift, which Hilborn claims will result in increased taxes for Acton residents.

Hilborn also attacked Bonnette for not attending an NEC information meeting in January and not subsequently arranging a meeting with the NEC to learn all the facts.

Bonnette had said he was work-

ing and could not attend the day-time meeting.

"As a Regional and Town Councillor you receive over \$30,000 per year," Hilborn said.

"You stated that in a recession you need more than one job. As a matter of fact, you have three. You are obviously far too busy in other activities to perform your obligations to the citizens of Acton and the Town of Halton Hills adequately.

"Mr. Bonnette, if you are not willing to represent our Town at the Region as the majority of this Council had voted, then why should we pay you to sit on Town Council and the Region?"

Bonnette, who called Hilborn's comments the most bitter attack he has heard on any Councillor in his 10 years in office, defended his attendance and voting pattern.

"What you're saying is that if I don't do exactly what you're telling me to do then that's it. It will be get out the cross and crucify the Councillor," Bonnette said.

Following the meeting Bonnette condemned Hilborn and some members of the public that applauded her comments.

"This very small minority of people have now crossed the line of common human decency. It is absolutely preposterous to single me out for missing one meeting," Bonnette said.

Counc. Johnston accused some unnamed members of special interest groups of spreading rumours that a member of the Niagara Escarpment Landowners Coalition, a group supporting the shift in development control, was her election campaign chairman.

"This is an attack on my credibility and what amounts to a smear campaign to discredit me. While people have every right to say what they want about me personally, they also hurt other people.

"I would like to give fair notice that if this kind of thing continues, I am going to take legal action to expose people," Johnson said.



SHOPPING SPREE: Rockwood's Elayne Tanner and husband Uldis Bernhards snuggled Sunday on a leather couch that they may buy after winning the olde Hide House's \$5,000 shopping spree. Bernhards's name was drawn last Wednesday. Story, Page 5. (Lori Frechette photo)

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NEWS SHORTS

Samaritan assaulted

An Acton man has been charged with assaulting a good Samaritan who went to the rescue of a beating victim outside the Station Hotel early Sunday morning.

Police report 53-year-old Fred Dobbin and his wife were driving on Mill Street when they saw a man beating a woman.

Dobbin stopped his car and tried to intervene but was punched in the head by the suspect who was located and charged Sunday night.

Twenty-eight-year-old Duane McCoy will appear in Milton Court Monday, April 5.

Police say Dobbin was not injured, but have no information about the other victim.

The investigation continues.

No blow

A Brampton man has been charged with impaired driving and refusing a breathalyzer test following a two-car accident Sunday afternoon in Acton.

Police report a motorist refused to blow following an accident on Coles Court. No damage was done to the victim's car.

Forty-four-year-old Anton Kamenski will appear in Milton court Monday, March 29.

Crash and dash

Halton police are searching for the driver of a motor home involved in a "fail to remain" accident on Mill Street Sunday afternoon.

One of three witnesses told police he was in Andy's Restaurant when he saw the driver of a cream-coloured motor home pull away from the curb and hit the side of a 1992 Hundai that was parked in front of him.

The driver got out, surveyed the damage, estimated at \$500, and took off.

Police say the vehicle is registered to a used-car dealer and the investigation continues.

Hideaway heist

A sneaky thief made off with \$240 from the Reliable Taxi office overnight Thursday.

Police suspect the thief hid in the store after closing, cleaned out the till in the arcade area and left by a back door.

Police found no sign of forced entry and the only evidence of the crime were vice grip marks on a door knob and partially obscured footprints in the snow.

Police have no witnesses or suspects.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"What you're saying is that if I don't do exactly what you're telling me to do then that's it. It will be get out the cross and crucify the Councillor"

— Rick Bonnette, Acton Councillor, Page 2

DID YOU KNOW?

Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauatamateapokaiwhenuakitanatahu is the name of a hill in New Zealand. At 57 letters, it is the longest place name in the world and means "the place where Tamatea, the man with the big knee who slid, climbed, and swallowed mountains, known as land-eater, played on his flute to his loved one."

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