

Bonnette wants 'humane action'

MUNICIPAL DIGEST

Saying the "bleeding has to stop," Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette voted against delaying the decision whether or not the Region should pay for Chairman Peter Pomeroy's legal bills stemming from corruption charges.

On Wednesday a highly emotional Pomeroy announced he would not seek re-election and pleaded with Council not to change a controversial by-law that would see his bills paid by the Region.

Council deferred any decision for one month to give staff time to seek outside legal advice.

"It would have been a lot fairer and more humane to have dealt with the issue last Wednesday," Bonnette said on Monday.

"This thing is just going to fester and snowball. We should have nipped this in the bud and decided now if Pomeroy's bills would be paid. It is not fair to have this

hanging in the air for the next month," explained Bonnette.

Bonnette said the Region should not pay the legal fees of any Councillor of staff member charged with a criminal offence.

Acted in 'bad faith'

It was politics, not good planning that led Halton Hills councillors to freeze development north of Hwy. 401, an Ontario Court general division judge has ruled.

In quashing the development freeze by-law on a 405-hectare parcel of land, Madame Justice Susan Greer said, "I am satisfied that many councillors were simply concerned about their own re-election in the forthcoming November election.

"I am further convinced that Halton Hills acted in bad faith," Greer continued as she ruled against the Town in a lawsuit brought by two developers in the

401 corridor, Equity Waste Management of Canada Corp. and Panorama Investment Group.

Metro expands

An Acton firm will not have to meet the Town's stringent landscaping standards as part of its expansion plans.

After a visit on Thursday, members of the Site Plan Committee decided Metro Pavement Markings on Commerce Court must plant only two trees and not the 18-plus trees and 133 shrubs called for in the landscaping by-law.

Although the Town is attempting to spruce up the look of Acton's industrial area, committee members felt Metro already has the nicest looking property in the area and that additional trees and shrubs were not necessary.

Metro has plans to almost double the size of its Acton plant with a new office and warehouse.



PEDAL POWER! Meghann Williams and Courtney Smallwood, both 10, helped raise \$23,400 in the 14th annual Terry Fox Run on Sunday. Both girls rode their bikes around the track at Acton High in the 10-km Marathon of Hope. Meghann said she was riding for her Aunt Kim, who died of cancer. (Frances Niblock photo)

Commerce Ct. a mess

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Councillor Norm Elliott is calling for a "wholesale change in attitude" by business owners in the Commerce Court industrial area.

Town staff and members of the Site Plan Committee saw first hand how shabby the area is when they visited a business there Thursday.

"When we try to attract new industry to Acton, Commerce Court leaves an awful lot to be desired," Elliott said as he rhymed off a long list of complaints, including over-grown weeds, blowing garbage and neglected properties in the area.

Although committee members were on hand to determine landscaping requirements at Metro Pavement Markings, it was the neighbouring Industrial Ready-Mix plant that caught their eyes.

"There are all kinds of infractions at Ready-Mix," said senior planner Alan Binks in an interview on Thursday.

"There are building permit infractions, the property hasn't been sodded, they have an illegal entrance and they haven't fulfilled other conditions of their site plan."

Binks said Ready-Mix would be issued a letter stating the deficiencies and warning that the Town would press charges unless the problems were cleared up.

Binks also noted that there are not enough Town staff to patrol businesses to ensure they are following their site plans. Further, it's not that easy to press charges.

"There needs to be a collective approach to make the area something to be proud of and someplace that would be appealing for a new business to locate," said Elliott.

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