

The North Halton Compass

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BRASS TACKS – Editorial

Voters must ultimately decide if Krantz in conflict

Nobody can deny Gord Krantz is a generous fellow. Generous with his time, generous with his cheerleading of the Town he has served for so long and generous with his patience in regard to a sometimes fractious council. The popular Milton mayor even likes to keep a jar of jelly beans on hand at Town Hall office to hand out to the younger folk that sometimes visit his office. To many Milton kids he is the Candy Man.

Now, according to an e-mail the mayor received from fellow mayoralty candidate Richard Malboeuf, Mr. Krantz has allegedly been caught with his own hand in the candy jar.

In what he thought was a pri-

vate e-mail, Mr. Malboeuf urged Mayor Krantz to bow out of the municipal campaign, largely because of a \$750 donation accepted by the mayor from Dufferin Aggregates during the 2000 election campaign. In the letter, Mr. Malboeuf also informed the mayor that during the 2003 election campaign, the Dufferin donation would be used by others to declare that the mayor was in a serious conflict of interest. In 2000, Krantz, a sitting member of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, was in a decision making position on any applications the aggregate company brought before the NEC.

Just a friendly heads-up from a fellow politician? Probably not.

However, the mayor's reaction of immediately forwarding the e-mail to the media and vowing to remain in the election and win certainly suggests he doesn't think he's done anything wrong.

Although conflict of interest is a serious issue, municipal law in Ontario is so ambiguous concerning conflict of interest it's basically left up to individual politicians to decide if they are in conflict or not.

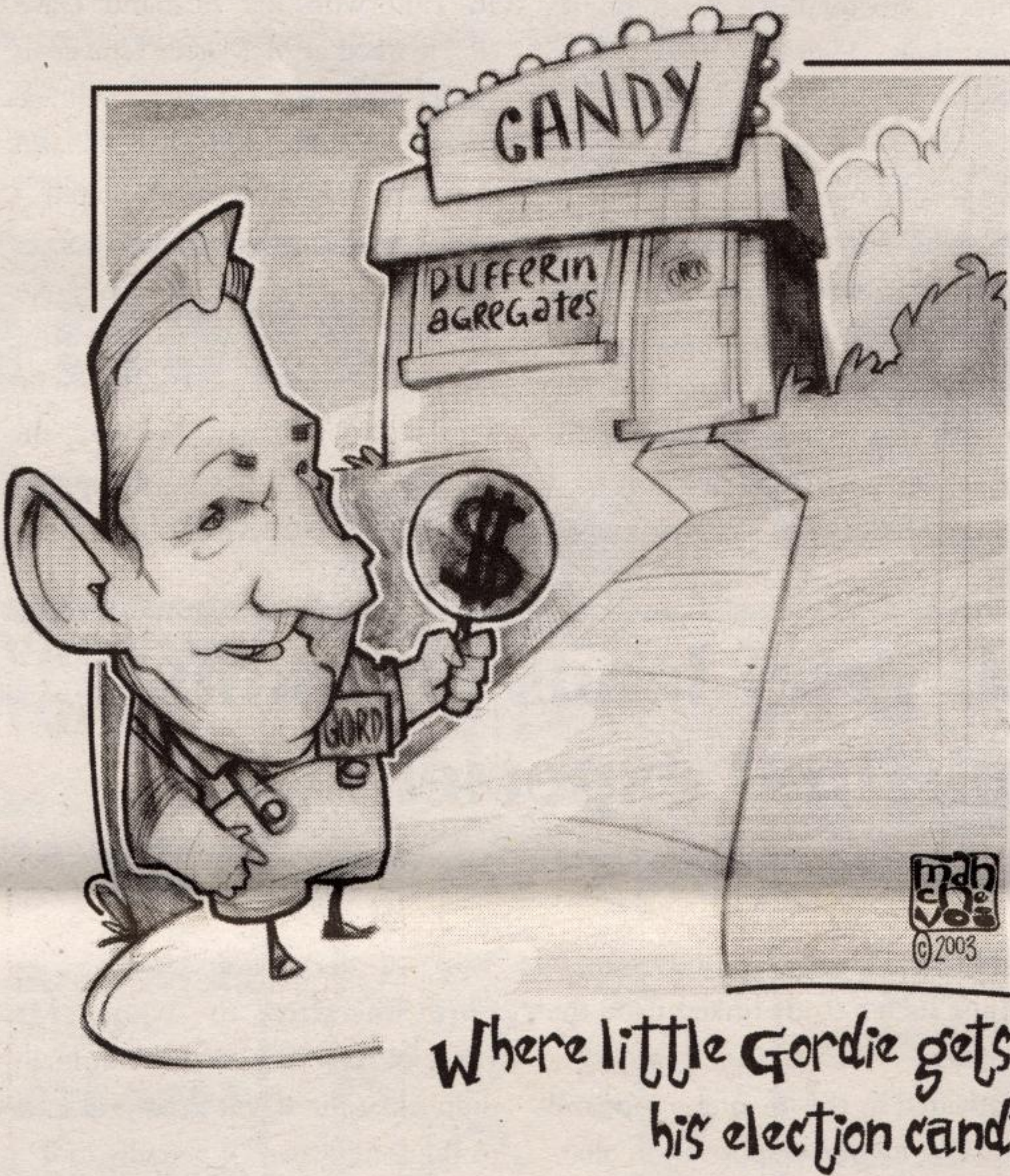
Unfortunately, local politicians sometimes use conflict of interest guidelines to remain off the record, especially during voting on contentious issues. Others often ignore the guidelines, feel strongly about being on the public record, and don't declare a conflict when possibly they should.

Talk about a damned if you do or damned if you don't scenario for local politicians!

Certainly Mayor Krantz's position that no politician would be foolish enough to jeopardize his or her career over a \$750 campaign donation certainly has validity.

On the other hand, Mr. Malboeuf's contention, whether or not his private e-mail saw the light of day, that the mayor's acceptance of Dufferin money for his 2000 campaign is a serious conflict of interest also has merit.

Perhaps smart voters in the Town of Milton need to ask if any other local politicians - especially those not on the NEC - received financial support in 2000 from Dufferin Aggregates before making up their mind if the mayor is in conflict or not.



BLUE SPRINGS SOAPBOX – Letters to the Editor

I want to start by making it perfectly clear to the people of Milton that my only reason for sending the email in question to Mayor Krantz was out of respect for the Office of Mayor as well as my personal respect for Gord and his family.

To suggest, as the Mayor has, that this was "sleazy politics" is absurd; had I gone public with this issue the Mayor might have had justification to make that statement. The fact that he chose to make a confidential email public begs the question who is really playing "sleazy politics?" it is disappointing that the Mayor, in an attempt to score political points, chose to make this email that I sent in confidence public.

Now that the Mayor has made

this matter public, the real issue is no longer the email or the fact the Mayor made it public. No, the real issue now is whether it is right for the Mayor to accept financial contributions from companies doing business or seeking to do business with the town, a point the article and editorial completely ignored. Town policy states that no employee shall accept gifts of any kind from those providing services to the Town of Milton in order to avoid "conflicts of interest." Why are the rules different for the Mayor?

For the record, when I decided to seek the position of Mayor of Milton I also made the decision that in order to protect the integrity of the office I would not accept any donations from anyone. As Mayor I will not be indebted to any-

one except the people of Milton, which is the way it should be. One of my goals as Mayor was to address the whole issue of political contributions; the fact that this is now an election issue has basically achieved what I was striving for. Now that this issue of political contributions is before the voting public I doubt very much that any candidate is accepting contributions from any consultant or developer for this election.

I put my name forward to run for Mayor because I believe, as do many Milton residents, that it is time for a change. My record a Local and Regional Councillor speaks for itself. My accomplishments over the past six years and

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