

# Halton Hills CAO's unexpected departure remains a mystery

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the club at the time, was in conflict if she put forward a motion regarding Mattamy Homes or the golf club.

ed Mr. Thompson to deny that she ever discussed or made any such motion, either *in camera* or in Council.

"If the CAO resigned as a result of any conflict he might have had with Mr. McNally, then the conflict of interest goes right over to the resignation of the CAO too. At least three members of this Council were in a conflict of interest."

Two other councillors with involvements in the golf club are Bryan Lewis and Jane Fogal, who are shareholders. Mrs. Fogal is also the sister of Dave McNally, the president of the club.

Although Mrs. Johnson's recommendation, made *in camera* on July 7, just three days before Mr. Andrews' resignation, remains

unknown, some important points about the vote on this is known.

First, no one declared a pecuniary interest in the matter. Second, a record of the vote was requested, which is rather unusual. The vote was close, with six in favour, and five against. Those in favour were Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Fogal, Clark Somerville, Rick Bonnette and Joan Robson, who seconded the motion. Voting against were Mayor Gastle, John Day, Ron Chatten, Dobbie Frizzell and Bob Inglis.

When asked earlier to comment on this motion, Mayor Gastle stated that "The contract was approved by a majority of council, and I, as mayor am obligated to obey council's decision," which suggests that Mr. Andrew's employment agreement was discussed at this time.

John Day also commented

that public suspicion "is hard on staff which is doing its job," which may also have been a reference to Mr. Andrews' performance.

If, on the contrary, Mr. Andrews resigned without notice on his own volition, people fear that the Town is wasting taxpayers' funds. Jim Goodlet and Derek Williams have each filed a request for access to Mr. Andrews' contract under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

"My concern is the financial cost to the Town," says Mr. Goodlet. "The Town is a corporation, and as taxpayers we're shareholders. If Mr. Andrews quit, no settlement is due. Council should tell us where the money went and how much money went. It's a cloudy issue."

Mr. Williams is a candidate for Ward 4 councillor, and is attempting to make this question an election issue.

"If the CAO resigned, why was he paid a settlement?" he asks. "Councillors are hiding information from us. And I don't want it hidden in the budget. If they're spending our money, they should make the amount clear under his name. My concern is how much more money has been wasted? How many more mistakes have been made?"

Councillor Johnson interrupt-

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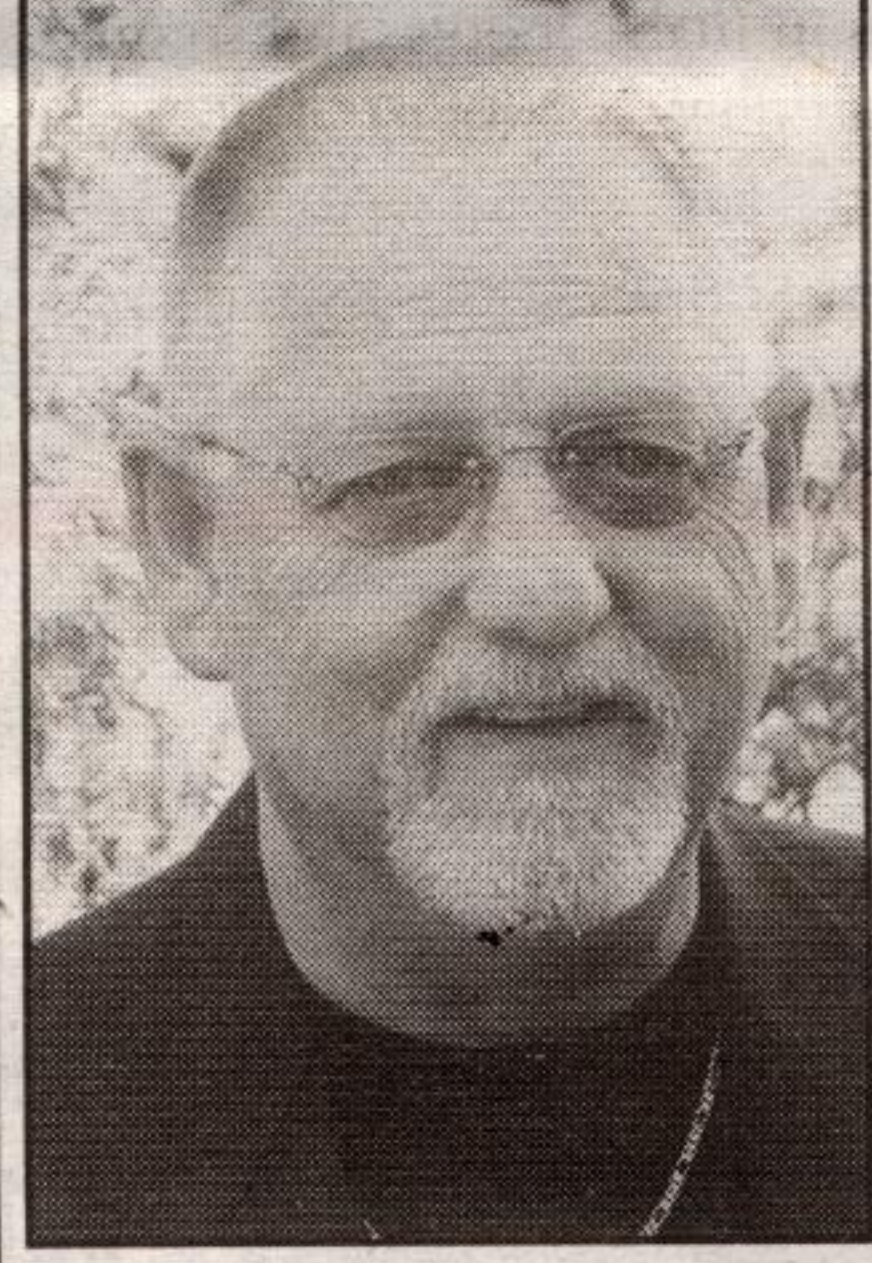
*"Halton Hills can become the jewel of the GTA but it won't happen by allowing another three years of the status quo or... by choosing how it has been done before. Please read my platform on my website... or call 905 877 7083 for more details." John Day*

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