

# New all-party committee listens to the public on Greenbelt

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Region of Halton as well as with the Town of Oakville.

In his speech given with Renee Sandelowsky last week at the Standing Committee, he stated he was in favour of initiatives that will help farmers earn a living, but when it comes to compensation, he is opposed to rewarding speculators and developers. He likens this idea to compensating people who purchase bad stocks.

But Gevaert's concerns are more about the devaluation of land inside the greenbelt and not so much about speculation and he says that 90 to 95 percent of farmers are not in speculative mode.

He draws from personal memory about how land prices are affected by protective legislation. He says that when he purchased his own farm many years ago it was considerably less expensive than the one across the way. This was due to the fact that his property was covered by protective restrictions. The neighbouring property did not.

More currently, Gevaert has found that the regular barrage of real estate agents offering up free property quotes has all but dried up in the last 14 months.

Gevaert and his group are also convinced that farmers will be disadvantaged in terms of how they do business.

"The farmer inside the greenbelt will

not be able to do what the farmer outside does," said Gevaert.

He thinks that issues such as gun use and routine noise from farm machinery will eventually cause problems for those farming inside the greenbelt.

By-laws may become be stricter regarding agricultural practices, such as limiting the use of herbicides and pesticides.

"This will have a dramatic effect on farming methods that are considered state-of-the-art," says Gevaert.

Woodlands, he says will be designated as nice areas for recreation, not as a crop.

"We've already seen this with the tree by-law that restricted farmers," he says.

Although many of his concerns are speculative, they do highlight the different positions of those in the community and speak to the bridges that need to be built.

Use of pesticides and a lack of protection for woodlots are issues that are on the minds of many, but so too, is the desire to ensure local farms stay viable.

Statistics recently quoted in the Toronto Star, outlined the cost in terms of carbon dioxide to import our food versus growing it at home.

A simple meal including fruit, veggies, beef, coffee and wine racked up more than 27,000 kilometers of travel and a choking 4.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide. If locally grown food

had been put on the plate, the mileage was reduced to about 4,600 km and 439 kg of CO2.

Similar analogies can be drawn between clean air and the need for trees, with many echoing Councillor Elgar's sentiments that, "trees are the lungs of the earth."

One of Gevaert's suggestions that might indeed be a common denominator is to level the playing field.

"Why not make all the land outside the urban centre greenbelt?" asks Gevaert.

This would certainly be in keeping with the goals of Councillors Sandelowsky and Elgar as well as others who would be happy to see the range of greenbelt protection extended.

As Flint from FORCE points out, it is easy to polarize the issue into the environment versus development when really it's just common sense.

"Clean air and clean water are some things we just cannot do without," he says.

## Cyber piracy in Halton – the download stops here

By ANN KORNUA

Cyber pirates watch hit movies days after they come out in theatres. It is easy for them to browse online hidden behind their computer monitors. All it takes is a broadband connection and a little time to become guilty of what some deem as a victimless crime. Cogeco Internet services recently sent out email alerts to their subscribers whose IP addresses are being picked up by companies who monitor Internet traffic on copyrighted materials. Big name media corporations such as Paramount and Universal fund these companies.

Nick Johnson is attending Sheridan College as an Information Systems Security major and is top of his class with a GPA of 4.0. As a student, Nick is learning what makes computers secure. Nick said, "No one has complete anonymity on the internet, because when you log in your IP address is marked and logged. What is at question is should your activity be logged and monitored by your service provider or should they just provide you with their service?"

It comes as a shock to some, that by receiving emails they could be accused of illegal file sharing on their ISP. They may not even be using the Internet for file sharing but individuals in their household might be. Worse, if you use a wireless network, someone might be stealing your Internet time by hacking into it. It is not illegal to download material off the Internet in Canada and as it stands, the copyright laws are open to question.

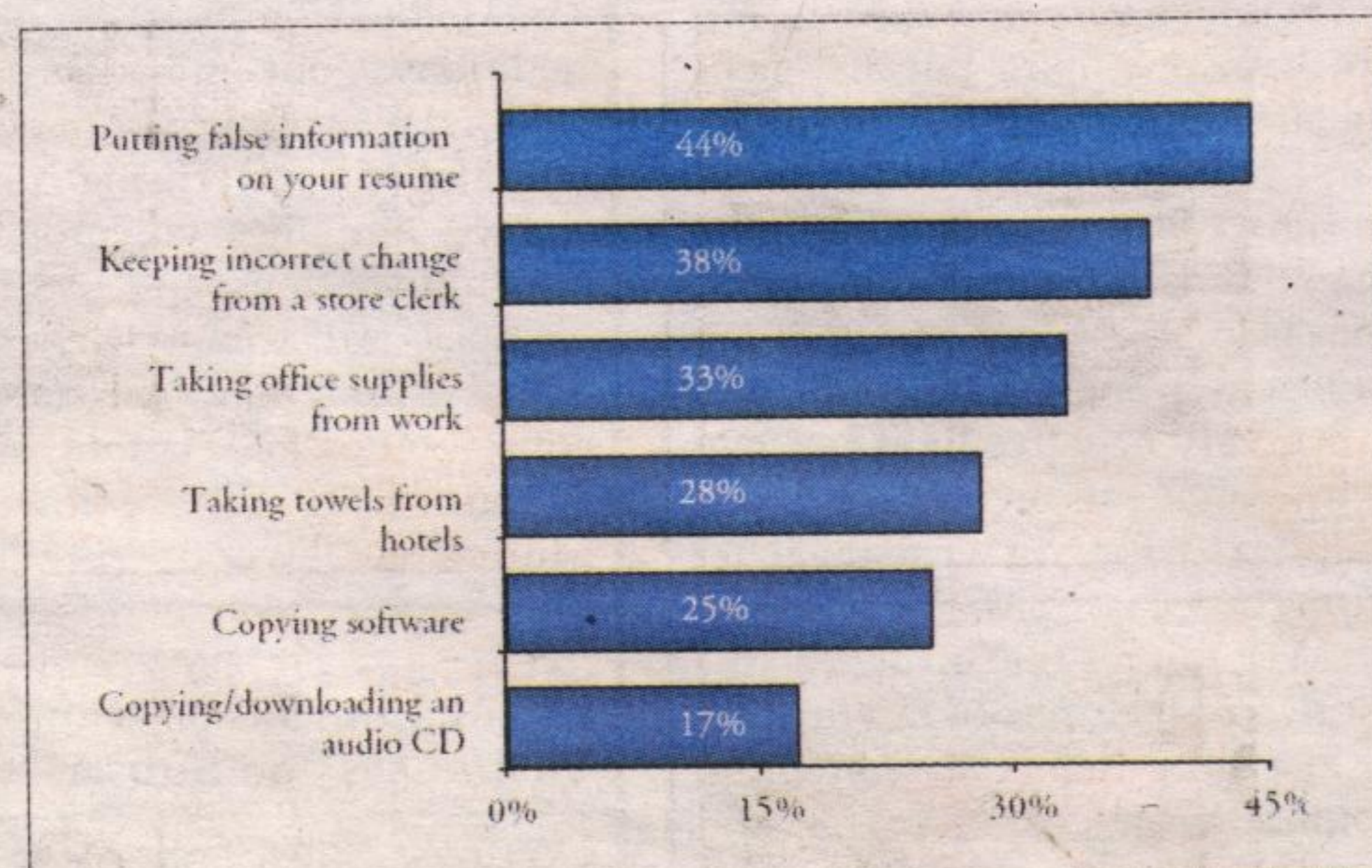
Companies such as Paramount are hiring Internet watchdogs to monitor the traffic of IP addresses uploading and downloading their media. From monitoring this activity, they send off allegations of copyright infringement to service providers across the globe alerting these providers that their media is circulated through their service. Cogeco comments that since the law in Canada now is undetermined on copyright materials transferred on the Internet, Cogeco is not working with these watchdogs but simply passing on information to their customers. By doing this, it alerts their customers to the activity that is occurring on their account and is not accusing them of any illegal activity. Through their privacy terms, Cogeco cannot give out the name of any of its subscribers without a direct court order.

Canadian law may change. Cogeco is keeping their customers informed on their Internet activity and that their IP address can be monitored by these third party affiliates.

### Most Canadians Don't Perceive Software Piracy to Be a Serious Crime

The survey revealed that most Canadians consider software piracy a less serious offense than falsifying a resume, keeping incorrect change from a store clerk, or stealing office supplies.

Top 2 Box Scores\*



\* (9 or 10 on a 10 pt scale. 1 = not serious 10 = serious)

"A chart taken from a study conducted in December 2002 by the Canadian Alliance Against Software Theft (CAAST). This commissioned study was to determine working Canadians' attitudes toward pirating software. Among those surveyed three quarters, acknowledge there is "something wrong" with copying software. Yet shockingly, over half (52%) think that stealing software for personal use is acceptable."

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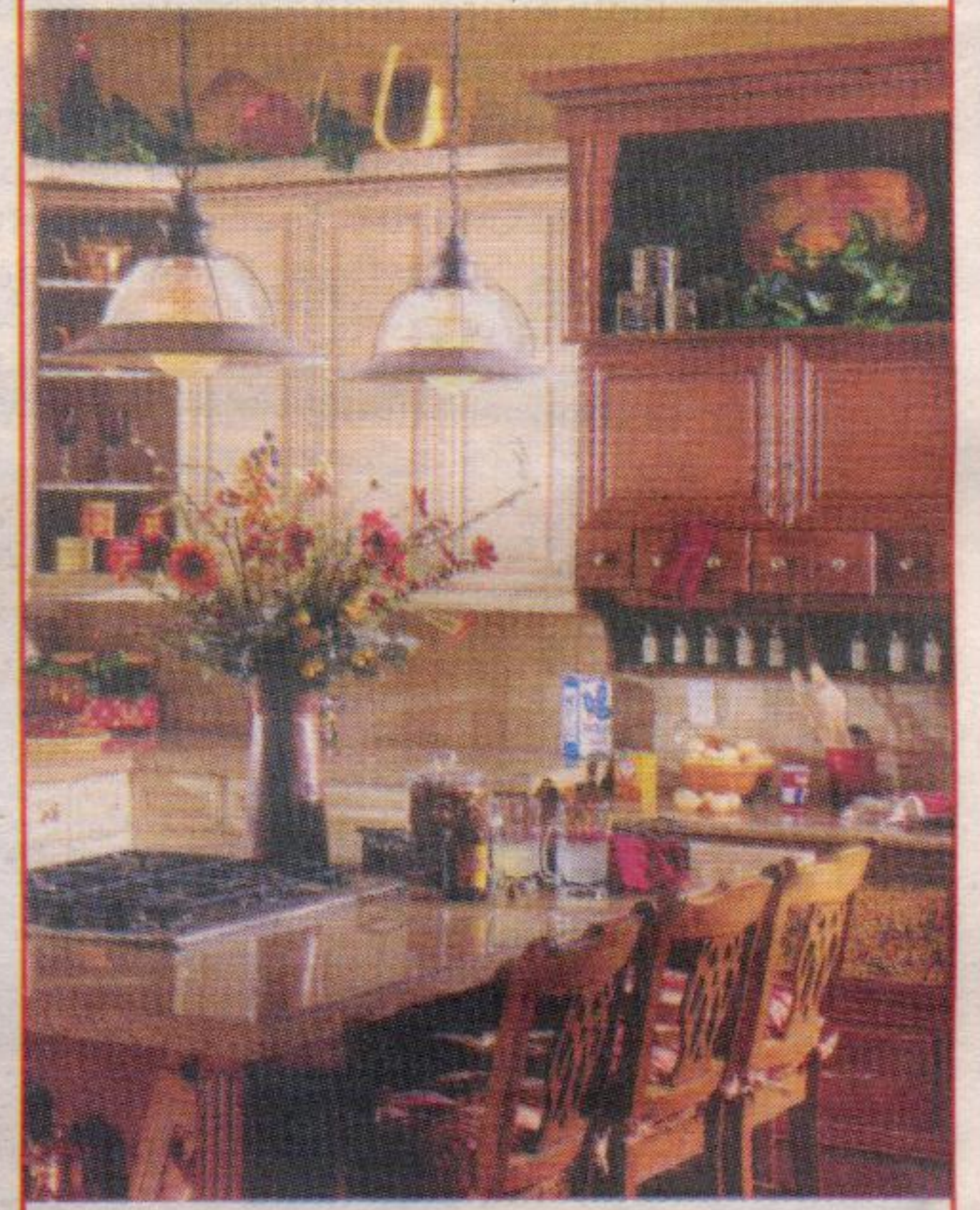
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