



FOODSHARE FRIENDS: The dedicated volunteers on the board of directors of Acton's FoodShare food bank would like to put themselves out of business. At their annual general meeting last week the board thanked the generous Acton community - citizens, churches and business - who help keep the food bank shelves stocked. The board includes, from left: Nancy Gaylor (retiring), new member Emrys Jenkins, Joan Waldie Jenkins, the Reverend Mark Tiller, Gary Barton, Eileen Dix and Arlene Humphreys. - Frances Niblock photo

Reappoint four members to board of Foundation

BYMAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

Four former Conservation Halton Foundation board members have been re-appointed but no ruling has been offered on the legality of their March 31 firing.

At Conservation Halton's May 18 meeting, Jack Arno, Don Ford, Dick Hass and Sarah Lowe were returned to the board from which they and five other volunteers were fired earlier this year.

At the time a Conservation Halton press release said the removals were made in the interest of "strengthening the board."

Three Conservation Halton board members opposed the appointments even after lengthy in-camera discussions with Ian Newcombe of the Hamilton law firm of Agro Zaffiro.

Milton Mayor Gord

Krantz, Halton Hills Councillor Clark Somerville and Flamborough Councillor Paul Kidd all opposed the original motion firing the Foundation board's nine volunteer members and two life members.

They each stressed their opposition to the re-appointments had nothing to do with the individuals. They opposed the re-appointments in order to be consistent with their original position on the firings.

Mayor Krantz said two of the fired Foundation members did not reapply for their positions. Although there are still several vacancies on the board, only four of the five applicants were accepted. Cindy Lunau did not make the cut.

"They were gunning for her to start with," Krantz said. "I question if the others had reapplied they wouldn't have been accepted either. I have a sneaking suspicion politics

have been working overtime."

Krantz feels the issue is over but the damage will never be repaired. "All we can do is regroup and get on with it."

The board went in camera with Newcombe to discuss the minutes of an executive committee meeting, then proceeded directly to the item appointing Foundation board members when they returned to a public forum.

This skipped a notice of motion which would have deemed the firings "appropriate, legal and in conformity with letters patent and historical practice."

Kidd questioned why they were proceeding directly to the next item.

"In Flamborough we always have to report on what happens in camera," Kidd said. "That's what I was trying to get made public - that report. I also wanted to know why we were skipping item four."

Meeting chair Dennis Gregor, told Kidd the notice of motion was never tabled for discussion and proceeded to the next item on the agenda - the motion appointing the four Foundation board members.

Theresa Maguire-Garber, Foundation CAO, backed up Gregor's comments in a later interview. She also refused to release the name of the Hamilton lawyer who had been identified by several board members.

Lunau blames her firing on awkward questions

Milton Councillor and former Foundation board member Lunau said it's clear why she wasn't accepted for re-appointment to the board of directors of the Conservation Halton Foundation.

"Because I've consistently been asking the wrong - or possibly the right - questions. This is not in any way connected to the strategic plan (which was supposed to be the issue board members were questioning)."

I don't believe it's about me at all. I believe it's more about the questions (being asked). Had the others who took exception to the manner in which this was handled been up for re-appointment by that committee, they wouldn't have been acceptable either."

Lunau said there were serious questions about the operating budget at what proved to be the board's final meeting. As a result of those questions, the board tabled the operating budget presented to them instead of approving it.

"I wasn't either the mover or seconder of that motion," she pointed out.

Former Halton MPP Jim Snow, who didn't re-apply for appointment recalled "something about the budget," although he wasn't sure ex-

actly what it was.

One of the big things he remembers was dissension over minutes of meetings.

"They had started a new procedure of distributing only very limited minutes of meetings," Snow said. These included only the things that passed. There was nothing about what was discussed or deferred. Some board members wanted complete minutes.

Lunau also pointed out the budget target for a project at Mountsberg was originally set at \$1.6 million. In 1999 that figure rose to \$1.8 million. During the interview process for re-appointment to the board, Lunau was told that figure has risen to \$2 million.

"The costs are rising but the fund raising ability is going down," she said.

Lunau said the Foundation

board does not get to see financial statements for their own operation. The board requested establishment of a finance committee at one point but it somehow got turned into a planned giving committee. Lunau said she gave up her efforts to see their figures expecting that committee would be able to examine them.

"But it hasn't met in 14 to 16 months so who knows what we were being charged for?"

"What's at stake here is the integrity of every Foundation," she said, "if it's this easy to dismiss Foundation members."

And what does this do to Lunau's reputation?

"Well, I've been asked to join two other foundations - not that I needed anything more to do."

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Summer reading program at library

Dust off your detective's notepad and become part of this summer's adventure at the library! Once again two Reading Clubs will be offered - one to keep those school-aged children reading, and another for the younger children who are not yet able to read.

Children who can read on their own are invited to go "undercover" and add a little mystery to their lives by enrolling in the "A Case for Reading" reading club. Prizes, programs and of course, great books, will keep kids who read on their own occupied. Weekly Reading Club meetings for club members will be held Tuesdays at the Acton branch, and on Thursdays at the Georgetown branch, at 2 p.m., starting July 4/6.

The library is inviting babies, preschoolers and young school-aged children to join our I Spy Read-To-Me Club. Parents, siblings, caregivers or other family members read to the child participating in

this adventure in summer reading. The I Spy Reading Club may be just the "eye-dea" you've been looking for!

Registration for summer reading programs will take place on Saturday, June 24, when magician Owen Anderson will be kicking off a summer of fun at the library.

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