

# Crown contests Pomeroy didn't declare conflict

By KIM ARNOTT

Special to The Independent/Free Press

The trial of former Halton politician Peter Pomeroy on charges of breaching the public trust and accepting a secret commission began in a Milton courtroom this week.

Pomeroy, 55, and co-accused Bert Arnold, a Georgetown lawyer charged with offering a secret commission, elected to be tried by judge, without a jury.

In an opening statement to the court, assistant Crown attorney Brian Gover described the details of a land deal involving a Georgetown property known locally as the Orchard property.

The property, which was purchased for \$435,000 in 1981 by a five-party consortium eventually sold in 1989 for \$11 million.

Arnold, 43, was one of the five co-owners of the 52-acre property, through his company Albefins Investment Ltd.

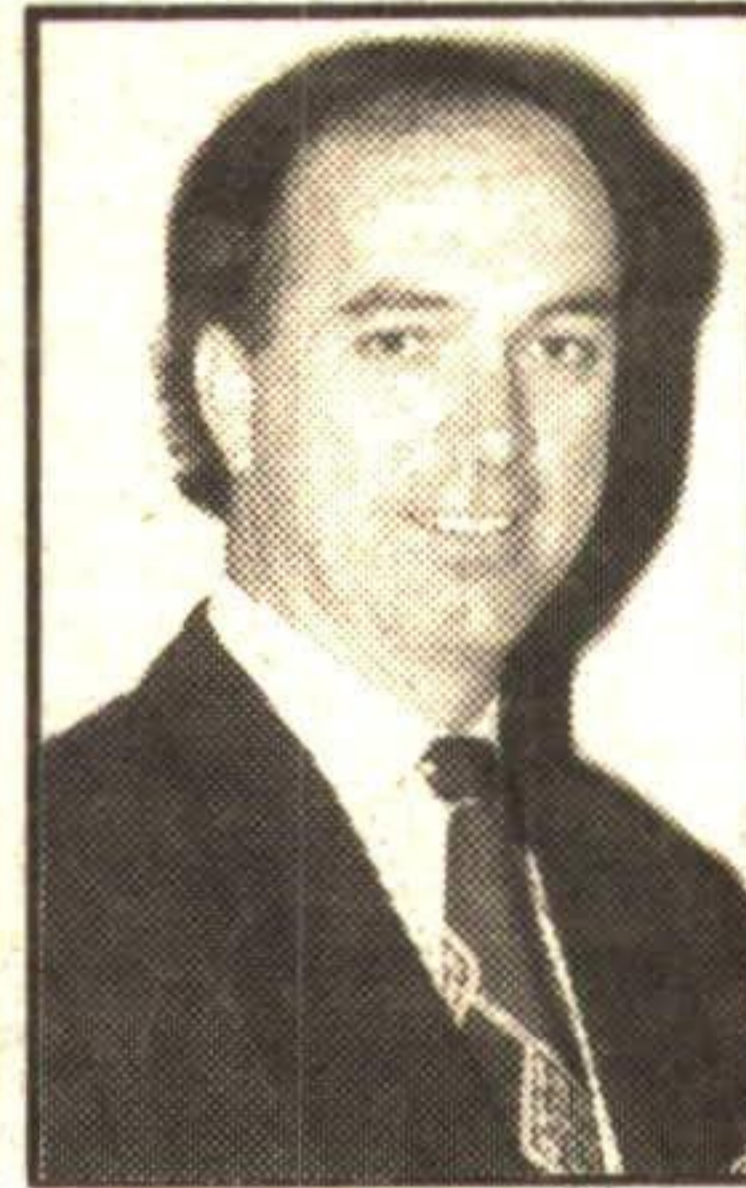
The crown is alleging Pomeroy held a financial stake in the investment company, when in 1982, as mayor of Halton Hills, he voted on an official plan amendment.

That amendment included the property held in part by Albefins Investment within the Georgetown boundaries, guaranteeing it water and sewage services.

"It is the Crown's position that Mr. Pomeroy had a conflict of inter-



PETER POMEROY



BERT ARNOLD

est relating to the Orchard property...a conflict he failed to disclose," said Gover.

Pomeroy, who served as Halton regional chairman until last

November's municipal election, is listed on several corporate tax returns filed by Albefins Investment as owning 50 per cent of that company's shares, the court heard Wednesday.

Long-time Georgetown real estate agent Ellen Hogg was also called to testify Wednesday.

Hogg, who held a 20 per cent share in the Orchard property, testified she believed Arnold had a "sleeping partner" in Albefins Investment, though Arnold repeatedly refused to name such a partner.

She also testified that Arnold told her the partner would be beneficial to the group when they decided to develop the property.

At the trial, expected to run through to the end of the week, Pomeroy is being represented by Toronto lawyer Brian Greenspan. Arnold's defense team is headed up by Alan Lenczner.

Pomeroy, and his wife Pat Crimmins still face additional charges of breach of trust and accepting a secret commission. Those charges, as well as related charges of offering a secret commission facing Arnold and North Halton developer Albert Tennant will be heard on Feb. 20.

Pomeroy and the three others were charged May 13, 1993, following an 18-month probe by a joint — Project 80 — task force into political corruption.

HALTON HILLS

# WEEKEND

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## News

### Digest

#### Three calls

Halton Hills Fire Department had three calls over the past few days but none of them were serious. On Tuesday they were called to a home on Carol St. in Georgetown because of an unknown odor in the basement. Firefighters could find nothing unusual. That same day firefighters were called to a house fire on 22 Sideroad, but when they arrived there was no fire. Thursday at about 3 p.m. firefighters responded to an alarm activation at a home on Hawks Place in Georgetown. There was no fire and it was determined oil on one of the stove's burners set off the alarm.

#### Bridal section

Look inside today's newspaper for a special 8-page section on Brides '95, a guide to help make that special day a memorable one.

#### Fair board meets

The Acton Agricultural Society will be holding its annual meeting Saturday January 28, in the hall of Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton, commencing at 10 a.m. followed by lunch and elections. New members are welcome.

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## Chamber music



Members of Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce were excited Thursday night as they officially opened the new office at 170 Guelph St., in Georgetown. Chamber president Ted Fry (centre) received a helping hand from directors Dave Manes and Jennifer Alton. The official opening and reception offered members a chance to look over the expanded facilities, which feature both chamber and tourism services. TED BRÖWN Independent/Free Press

## Town conducts recount

By LISA TALLYN  
Staff writer

A recount of the votes cast for Ward 2 local council candidates in the recent municipal election was done Friday at the Cultural Centre. However, at press time official results were not available.

Bill Roberts, the town clerk of Milton, was the recount officer and several senior staff members of the Town of Halton Hills participated in the recount after receiving training in proper procedure.

The recount was ordered late last month by Judge J.D. Takach after defeated local Ward 2 candidate Kevin Kuiack requested the votes be recounted and presented his case in a Milton court.

Kuiack, who lost to councillors Kathy Gastle and Rob Heaton (the two tied with 1,201 votes each) by 23 votes, initiated the application for the recount and provided an affidavit outlining several inconsistencies in the counting of votes. Affidavits were also provided by two of Kuiack's scrutineers.

See Wednesday's newspaper for full details.

## Acton man charged in Guelph variety store robbery

With a little help from Halton Regional Police, Guelph City Police have charged a 35-year-old Main St. N. Acton man with the robbery of a Guelph variety store that occurred at about 10 p.m. on Wednesday.

A spokesperson for Halton police

says Halton police were conducting a surveillance on the accused in relation to the recent robberies at Acton variety stores when the Guelph robbery occurred.

Police say the man parked his vehicle some distance from the

variety store, then walked to the store.

At that point Halton police contacted Guelph police, who responded to the store. At the same time Guelph police received another call regarding a robbery at the Guelph

store. Guelph police arrested the suspect as he returned to his car.

Halton police are investigating the possible connection the accused could have to a series of robberies in Acton. The man was held for a bail hearing in Guelph.



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