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News

Digest

Board meeting

The Halton Regional Police Services board met in the community room of the Georgetown police station Thursday morning. Presentations from the North Halton Cultural Awareness Council and the Georgetown Community Consultation Committee were on their agenda.

Norval request

A request by the Norval Community Association for a sprinkler hose with a timer for the Lucy Maud Montgomery park and a foot bridge be built from the old Norval School grounds to Willow Park was passed on to the town's Recreation and Parks department for consideration at the council meeting Monday night.

To be continued

The special council and site plan meeting focusing on the Equity Waste Management Composting facility will continue on Wednesday evening at the Civic Centre.

After five hours of discussion Thursday the meeting was concluded for the night to continue at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Area residents should have the opportunity to voice their concerns about the proposal at that meeting.

New weed inspector

Cathy Sinclair will be the town's weed inspector.

The appointment of the inspector was made Tuesday night by council. Town staff were directed to bring a bylaw before council to authorize the appointment.

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Pomeroy cleared on all charges

Allegations 'substantially without merit' — says judge

By **KIM ARNOTT**

Special to The Independent/Free Press

After almost four years of allegations, investigation and prosecution, former Halton regional chairman Peter Pomeroy has been vindicated by the courts.

Pomeroy and co-accused Albert Tennant, a north Halton land developer, were declared not guilty by Justice James Carnwath only moments after closing arguments were completed in a Milton courtroom Wednesday.

Pomeroy, 56, was charged with breaching the public trust, and accepting a secret commission. Tennant, 67, faced a charge of offering a secret commission.

Carnwath said he saw no evidence of any wrongdoing on the part of Pomeroy or Tennant.

Often, said the judge, not guilty rulings are necessary because criminal behavior has not been proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

"I want to make it clear to you, Mr. Pomeroy, and you, Mr. Tennant, that such is not the case here," said Carnwath. "You're entitled to know from me that I find the allegations against you substantially without merit."

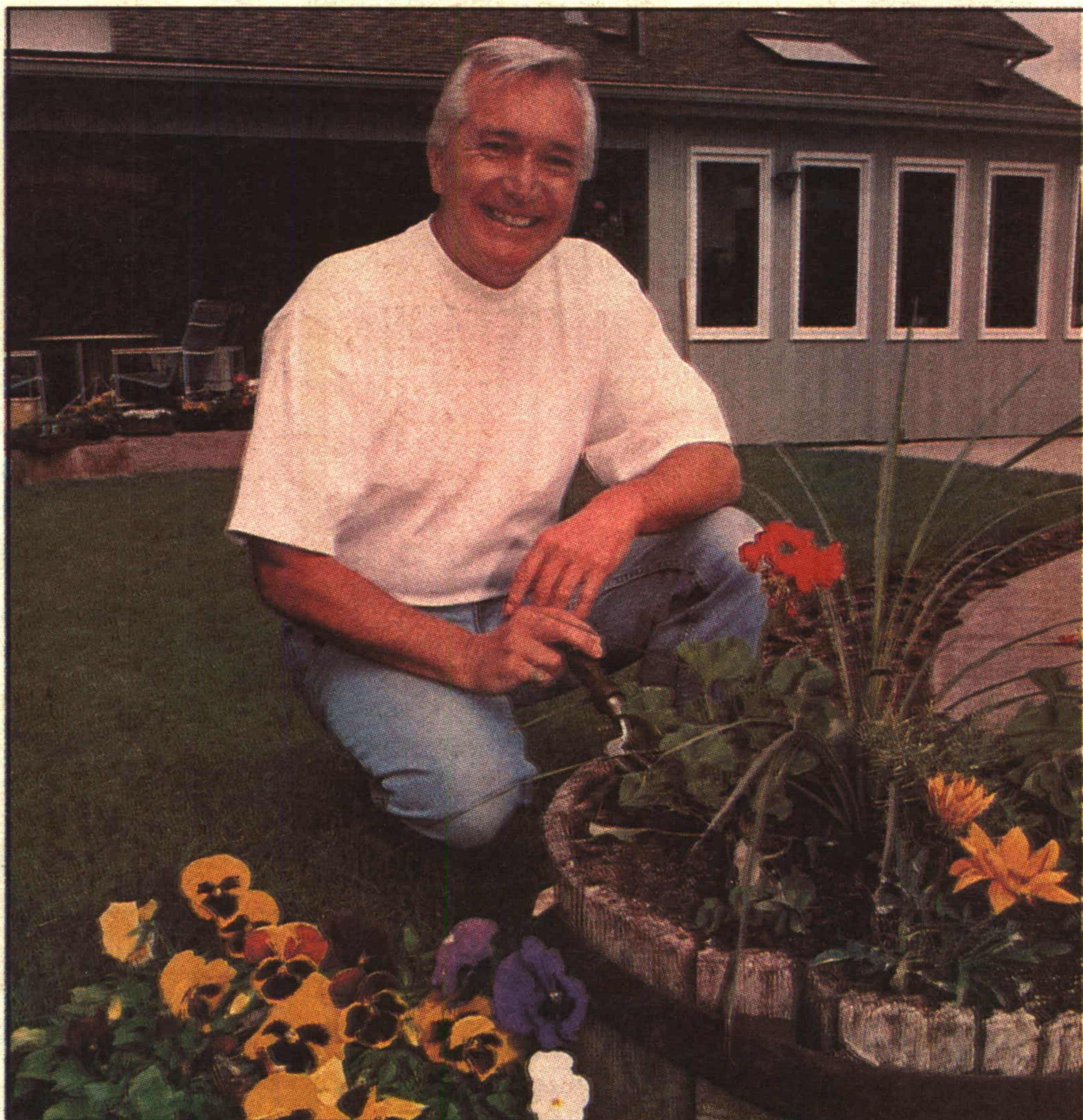
Outside the courtroom, Pomeroy told reporters he was elated with the results and could now begin to rebuild his life.

The longtime Halton politician is now clear of all criminal charges. Pomeroy, along with Georgetown real estate lawyer Bert Arnold, were acquitted of a first set of corruption charges in February.

When asked whether he intended to return to politics, Pomeroy said he would have to take some time to consider the matter.

"I like to think about it," he said. "The kinds of allegations I've suffered from as a politician are very difficult to recover from, but the thought has much appeal."

"It's very difficult to remove all the doubts from everybody's mind," Pomeroy continued. "Sometimes you get down when you're beaten up, but I'll be back, bigger and better than ever."



Former Halton regional chairman Peter Pomeroy is feeling pretty laid back these days as he does a little gardening in the back yard of his Norval home after being acquitted of all charges of accepting a secret commission and breach of public trust on Wednesday.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Pomeroy, Arnold and Tennant were originally charged in May, 1993, following an 18-month probe by Project 80, a joint police task force investigating municipal corruption.

The charges against Pomeroy and Arnold revolved around a Georgetown land flip which took place when Pomeroy was mayor of Halton Hills. The case against Pomeroy and Tennant involved an \$80,000 loan Pomeroy, then chair of the Halton region, accepted from Tennant.

Brian Greenspan, defence lawyer for Pomeroy, said the two acquittals of Pomeroy were "amongst the clearest vindications of

an accused person in my criminal practice." "They were found to be honorable people with total integrity, neither of whom attempted to undermine the system."

As a result of Pomeroy's acquittals, the bill of his legal defence will be picked up by the Halton Region. In an agreement reached with Pomeroy last fall, the region agreed to pay his legal bills if he was found not guilty of all charges. Greenspan estimated his charges would be in the neighborhood of \$150,000.

Neither Crown attorney Brian Gover nor members of the Project 80 task force would comment on the acquittals.

MULLIGAN'S GRILL

Everyone's welcome to come out for lunch or dinner and enjoy the selections off our new menu. We are serving a wide variety of dishes to satisfy everyone's palate including soup, salads, pasta, steaks, chicken, burgers, fajitas, nachos and vegetarian dishes. If your looking for a place with a casual (good time) atmosphere, great food, outdoor patio, breathtaking views and friendly staff, look no further. **Open 7 days a week.**

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