

Halton slams corruption cops, wants compensation

By KIM ARNOTT

Special to The Independent/Free Press

Regional council is demanding the province reimburse the \$150,000 Halton spent on legal fees to defend former regional chair Peter Pomeroy from charges of corruption.

Councillors also want the provincial government to scrap Project 80, the joint police task force which investigated Pomeroy, and set up an independent review of Project 80's activities.

"I don't think what we're dealing with here is a question of watchdog — it's a question of attack dog," said Burlington regional councillor Ralph Scholtens,

about the task force investigating municipal corruption.

"The people who have brought these charges against Mr. Pomeroy have done him a tremendous disservice, have done all of us a tremendous disservice. I think we need to be reimbursed," said Scholtens, who introduced the motions to be sent to the provincial government.

Pomeroy, 56, who was recently acquitted on four charges of breaching the public trust and accepting bribes, appeared before regional council with his lawyer, Brian Greenspan on



PETER POMEROY

Wednesday afternoon.

The Region agreed last fall to pay his legal fees, provided he was acquitted on all charges.

Greenspan told councillors that the court cases provided vindication of Pomeroy.

"(Justice James Carnwath) makes it clear that Mr. Pomeroy is not only not guilty, he is innocent," said Greenspan.

"The investigation began with a conclusion and intended not to neutrally investigate but sought to substantiate a theory, I suggest in a bullying manner."

The individuals responsible for spreading the rumors and innuendo

which led to his investigation should be held responsible for the Region's costs, Pomeroy indicated.

On a personal level, "I have no desire to chase these people for whatever reason. I want to get on with my life," he said.

But he urged council to consider civil action against the individuals, who weren't publicly named, to recover taxpayers' money.

Afterwards Pomeroy told reporters, "I honestly believe (council) has an obligation to (undertake civil action). I feel very strongly about this.

"In my opinion it would be the biggest crime of all if these people weren't brought to justice."

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News

Digest

Last chance

There will be at least one more all-candidates meeting held before the June 8 election, on June 5, 7:30 p.m. at Hillcrest United Church (Trafalgar Rd. and 5 Sideroad). It is sponsored by the Halton Federation of Agriculture.

Promote the vote

The local University Women's Club is hoping Halton Hills residents will take the upcoming Ontario election seriously, and has launched a Promote the Vote Campaign. They will be busy on June 7 blitzing Halton Hills. Members will hand out stickers featuring the slogan, Just Vote — June 8.

Eligible voters have until Wednesday at 8 p.m. to be put on the voters list for Thursday's election. This can be done by picking up a certificate to vote at Elections Ontario in the Indoor Mall on Guelph St. in Georgetown.

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Battlin' a barn blaze

A barn on the Sixth Line in Erin was fully engulfed in flames Wednesday at 6 p.m. when 22 firefighters from the Halton Hills Fire Department arrived. They were on the scene for more than an

hour along with members of the Hillsburgh Fire Department. The Halton Hills Fire Department didn't have an estimate of the damage.

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