

In-camera policy has been in place for 15 years, councillor told

Ward 3 Councillor Mike Davis recently asked whether there was a procedural bylaw concerning in-camera documentation, only to be informed by fellow councillors that a policy had existed for almost 15 years.

Mayor Rick Bonnette said the policy was written in 1992 during the Town fight against a proposal to put Toronto garbage in the Acton quarry.

"The reason why the policy came forth was really to protect councillors from themselves," explained the mayor. "We didn't want information getting out into the public and giving away strategies."

This is the essence behind the policy, he said, in that "an overzealous councillor in trying to get information out and trying to look good, could damage the Town and cost the taxpayers a lot of dollars."

The policy was created to maintain confidentiality when dealing with property, personnel and litigation matters involving the Town. Confidential items are always printed on green paper and are distributed separately in a closed envelope just prior to the start of a meeting. At the conclusion of meeting, the Town clerk collects all copies and destroys them.

Bonnette said he also started the practice in 1992 of signing his copy, so that he would never be accused of removing a confidential document from the Civic Centre.

Rural Councillor Joan Robson called the policy a common sense one.

The Municipal Act also states that town council must go into in-camera meetings on items involving property, personnel and litigation.

Davis, who brought the matter up at two recent council meetings, complained that he and the other two new term councillors were never informed of the policy until this year.

But Acton councillors Mike O'Leary and Jon Hurst (the councillors referred to) disagreed, stating the clerk informed them about the policy early on in the new term.

Davis also asked for a historical accounting on the town's legal activities.

Chief Administrative Officer Dennis Perlin said he would gather that information for the councillor.

Davis also asked for the clerk to compile a list of procedural policies that stood alone from the overall procedural bylaw in time for the March 7 meeting.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

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FACING THE FACTS

- Each day, an average of 12 Canadians learn that their kidneys have failed.
- Canada's organ donation ranks among the lowest in all developed countries.
- Of the 3,901 Canadians on the waiting list for a transplant (as of September 2001), 3,014 were awaiting a kidney transplant
- Of the 1,058 kidney transplants performed in 2000, 62% were cadaveric and 38% were from living donors
- The three leading causes of kidney failure in new patients are: Diabetes - 32%; Renal Vascular Disease (including high blood pressure) - 21%; Glomerulonephritis (inflammation of the tiny filters in the kidney which clean the blood) - 13.5%
- Since 1964, The Kidney Foundation has awarded more than \$64 million to support kidney-related research.

Warning Signs of kidney disease

- High blood pressure
 - Puffiness of the eyes, hands or feet
 - Excessive foaming of the urine
 - Passage of bloody, cloudy or tea-coloured urine
 - Frequent passing of urine through the night
 - Fatigue
 - Loss of appetite or weight
 - Persistent generalized itching
- Know the warning signs of kidney disease and talk to your doctor if you suspect you may be experiencing symptoms.

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NOTICE OF PASSING OF ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

TAKE NOTICE that the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills passed By-laws No. 2006-0021, 2006-0022 and 2006-0023 on the 20th day of February, 2006 under Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P.13, as amended.

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or agency who objects to Zoning By-law No's. 2006-0021, 2006-0022 and 2006-0023 may appeal it to the Ontario Municipal Board by filing with the Clerk of the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills **no later than 4:30 p.m. on 23rd day of March, 2006** a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the By-law, the reasons to support the objection and a fee of \$125.00 made payable to the Minister of Finance.

Only individuals, corporations or public bodies may appeal a decision of the municipality or planning board to the Ontario Municipal Board. A Notice of Appeal may not be made by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be made in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf.

An explanation of the purpose and effect of the Zoning By-law Amendments, of the lands to which they apply is outlined below. The complete Zoning By-law Amendments, are available for inspection in the Clerk's Department during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

D14-TO - Town of Halton Hills Residential Accessory Buildings and Structures Study

EXPLANATORY NOTE
Purpose and Effect of the Zoning By-law Amendments No's 2006-0021, 2006-0022 and 2006-0023

The amendments regulate the location of residential accessory buildings, including:

- Specific setbacks requirements, for residential accessory buildings and structures, including detached garages and carports, from the rear, side and flank lot lines;
- Specific height requirements for flat-roofed and peaked-roof detached garages and carports, and for all other residential accessory buildings and structures;
- Lot coverage and area requirements for all residential accessory buildings and structures; and
- Specific height, setback, area, and lot coverage requirements for residential accessory buildings and structures within the Rural (RU) Residential Estate (RE) Zones.

Location of the Lands

The Town initiated Amendments provide standards throughout the Town of Halton Hills relating to detached accessory buildings and structures associated with residential used only, excluding patios, pools and decks.

Further enquires regarding the Zoning By-law Amendments may be directed to the Planning Department, located at the Civic Centre, at (905) 873-2601 x 2289.

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