

# Judge throws out assault charges against Scott

By Rebecca Ring

Provincial Court Justice Norman Douglas dismissed the assault charge against Guelph/Eramosa Councillor John Scott last Monday in Guelph. He found no clear evidence of an assault and said that a criminal court is no place for a council dispute, calling it a "tempest in a chamber pot."

Councillor Reta Moyer accused Scott of making threatening gestures and yelling at her in a closed session of council on March 19. Earlier in the regular meeting, Moyer refused to pass the minutes from a council meeting held outside of the township on March 7, which she claimed was not properly announced and called it inappropriate and unethical. She told the press that this enraged Scott and after the public and press were gone, he jumped out of his chair and stood over her swinging his fists around her head. She said he leaned over her, shouting with rage, and punching at her, coming

## The Rockwood MILLER



within an inch or so. She called the O.P.P. on March 28 and Scott was charged with assault. She testified in court that Scott was in a blind rage and out of control; "He started swinging his fists right into my face." She added that he never struck her but his saliva was hitting her face as he was yelling. "I was very uncomfortable and I was scared," she said, "I tried to scrunch down into my chair as far as I could."

Crown prosecutor Steve Hamilton also called Councillor Roger Knapp as a witness for the prosecution. Knapp more or less corroborated Moyer's account. In a statement to the press last March he said, "[Scott] slammed his hands on his chair and said he had to speak out, then he ranted and raved at Reta. He smashed his chair off the podium. John's face was purple, his hands were clenched, and he was waving his arms over top of Reta and

she shrunk down in her chair. I don't think he was trying to hit her though. But he's a big man and he was intimidating to a 70-year old woman." He claimed that Deputy Clerk Meaghan Reid was asked to leave the room before the alleged incident took place. In court, he testified that Scott was shaking his fists in the air, but not in Moyer's face. He maintained that Scott was towering over her, and smashed his chair into the table near her. Douglas said this did not match Knapp's recorded statement that Scott had thrown or kicked the chair at Moyer.

Defence Attorney Martin Dykstra called Clerk/CAO Janice Sheppard and Reid as witnesses for the defence. Their testimony effectively presented reasonable doubt, as their accounts were different than Moyer's and Knapp's. Sheppard testified that it was Moyer who initially hurled insults, calling

Scott "an asshole" and "a smart mouth." She said she saw no assault and heard no shouting, but admitted that she may have been out of the room at the time. In a statement to the press last March, Moyer said that Sheppard was indeed present "smiling and chuckling" during the alleged assault. Douglas asked Sheppard if this council was usually split "three-two", to which she answered, "Yes."

Reid testified that she saw no assault and heard no shouting but admitted she may have been out of the room at the time. According to Reid, Moyer was first hostile to Scott, claiming that he asked Moyer why she wanted to make them "look like asses" in front of the public and press, to which Moyer answered "You don't need any help in that direction."

"I am disappointed, but not surprised," Moyer said of Douglas' decision, "The judge felt the Crown had not proven the case beyond reasonable doubt and the defendant is innocent until proven guilty." She added that there had not been enough preparation on the part of the Crown.

Guelph/ Eramosa

Council Chips  
by Rebecca Ring

Engineer nominated for committee

Council supported the nomination of Dale B. Murray as its municipal representative for the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee. Murray is a P. Eng. with Triton Engineering Services Ltd. His qualifications were outlined and include vast experience in water services and issues in the Grand River Watershed. The formation of this committee is required under Ontario's Clean Water Act. It will determine who is responsible for source protection plans, how to consult with property owners, the public and resolve disputes; identify water sources and potential threats to quality and supplies; set out policies on how to reduce threats, who is responsible to take action, timelines and measuring progress. Of those nominated, the GRCA will choose the representative for Guelph/Eramosa, which is part of a group of about 12 municipalities in Wellington-Dufferin-Grey Counties and Halton Region.

More traps in public waterways

Councillor Reta Moyer was "sitting on the fence" about granting Paul Parkinson permission to trap raccoon on township road allowances and mink and muskrat in waterways. "I have a lot of discomfort with trapping," she said, "There is a lot of emotion around it regarding wildlife and the environment."

Councillor Doug Breen asked that a condition be added to the motion that the trapper must ensure that no dogs are in

Continued on page 14

# 'Lock it or lose it'

Briefcases, cash, computers, cell phones, purses or wallets, CDs and MP3s or I-Pods. Do these items sound like a shopping list for gifts at Christmas?

They do and it is also the list of the most common items stolen from unlocked cars throughout Wellington County.

Wellington OPP has seen an increase in this type of crime lately. Officers have

responded to 12 thefts from autos, all from unlocked cars so far in the month of November.

Tips can help prevent people from becoming victims from a "Lock It or Lose It" campaign:

Never leave valuables in plain sight.

Secure all doors and windows, even at your own home.

Park in a well-lighted

area.

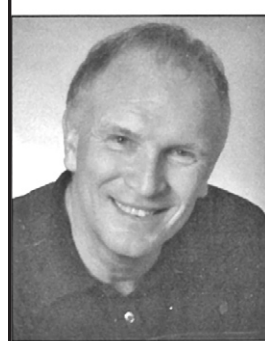
Remove packages or parcels from inside the car and lock them away in the trunk.

Close all windows, including vent windows and sunroofs.

Buy an alarm and use it!

Many people believe alarms no longer make a difference, however, they still remain an effective deterrent to a thief, the OPP

Tanner Ads work!



Sales Representative

ROYAL LEPAGE  
Meadowtowne Realty, Brokerage  
Independently Owned and Operated

JAMES WILSON  
905-877-8262

324 Guelph Street  
Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4B5  
Fax: (905) 877-0705  
Toll Free 1-866-865-8262  
E-mail: jameswilson@royallepage.ca

## NEWBABY



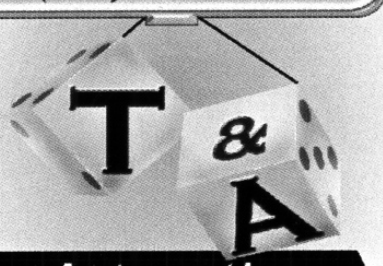
At your house?  
It's time to call your  
Welcome Wagon  
Hostess.

She will bring  
congratulations and  
gifts for the family and  
the NEW BABY!

Call Betty Ann  
853-1944



(519) 856-1531



Automotive

108 Station St. Rockwood

**Early Bird Special**  
Dripless Oil Spraying  
**15% Discount**

Open Monday to Friday - 8am to 5pm  
Including Saturday Mornings - 8am to Noon  
Offer Expires Nov. 17/07

Phone: (519) 856-1531

LAST 3 DAYS - NOVEMBER 10 - 17

ONLY 3 DAYS LEFT



HUGE SALE!

HUGE SALE!

50% OFF EVERYTHING

- Antiques • Collectables & Oddities
- Furniture & Household Items
- Books, treasures & trash

OPEN every day during sale 11-5  
CASH OR CHEQUES ONLY PLEASE.

132 Main St. S. (Hwy 7) Rockwood