

Former Fero officials fined

Two former Fero Waste officials were fined a total of \$16,000 earlier this month after receiving false GST refunds.

Raymond Venerus of Milton and Dorian Poloni of Campbellville, former directors of Fero Waste Disposal Inc. on Steeles Avenue, were handed the penalty in Ontario Court (provincial division) in Milton July 15.

Judge John Robinson fined Mr. Venerus \$10,000 and Mr. Poloni \$6,000, representing 110 per cent of the fraudulent GST refunds.

A year ago, the company was also fined \$157,389 after officials pleaded guilty to GST evasion in 1991 and 1992.

Fero president Al Pischiutta of Moncton, New Brunswick, formerly of Campbellville, was fined \$28,166 by Judge Doug Latimer after pleading guilty to two counts of GST evasion and two charges of obtaining false GST refunds for the company.

A Revenue Canada investigation revealed that Fero fraudulently under-reported sales of \$2,359,382 in 1991 and 1992, thereby reducing GST payable by \$157,389.

Through the participation of Mr. Pischiutta, Mr.

Venerus and Mr. Poloni, the company obtained fraudulent GST refunds of \$15,245 in 1991, said Lee McConnell, Revenue Canada spokesperson.

The GST scam was carried out by overcharging customers, court heard in October, 1995 when Mr. Pischiutta, Mr. Venerus and Mr. Poloni and office worker Deborah Marple of Milton pleaded guilty to six counts of uttering a forged document.

They were charged by Halton Regional Police in January 1993 following an intense three-month investigation.

In Ontario Court (general division) in Milton, Judge James Carnwath fined each of the foursome \$8,500 and ordered them to pay \$5,000 restitution to six companies they overcharged.

Court heard at the time that Fero overcharged six customers — Super Choice Country Markets, Label Tech, Ontario Tree Fruits, Northern Telecom, Maplehurst Correctional Centre and Canslit — by a total of more than \$79,000 from January 1991 to December 1992.

When asked by customers to justify the increasing costs, they created false weight documentation, court heard.

Police break ranks in case

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murder case, faces Police Act charges in the alleged cover-up.

Court heard how Det. Ford pushed his chair up tight against the murder suspect, leaned into his face and said: "Now we play hardball."

Then he delivered a roundhouse slap that was reportedly heard outside the interrogation room, leaving other detectives in shock and causing a secretary to cry.

Det. Ford was charged with assaulting the suspect. He later pleaded guilty and received a conditional discharge.

The Champion is not publishing the name of the suspect or details of the murder case because it remains before the court.

After the assault, Insp. Graham and Det. Waller called a meeting with other officers to discuss what to do, Sgt. Douglas McMillan testified earlier at the trial.

"Let's just say we didn't videotape it — it didn't happen," Sgt. McMillan recalled either Insp. Graham or Det. Sgt. Waller saying to the others at the meeting.

"We have to look after Doug. We can't leave him out to dry," Sgt. McMillan said he recalled Det. Sgt. Waller saying.

Det. Stonehill told the court that after the assault he went out with a second officer on police business.

When he returned to headquarters, he said Insp. Graham called him into his office and closed the door.

The two had known each other for about 20 years, working together as constables, Det. Stonehill said.

"Insp. Graham advised me I was the last person to be spoken to, Det. Stonehill told the court.

"He said he and Bob (Waller) had come to a decision and it was their intention to support Doug Ford over what had happened earlier in the day.

"We went on to say it was his intention to say the

assault had not taken place."

When Det. Stonehill asked Graham about the videotape, he said the senior officer reached out and put his hand over a corner of his desk, at a drawer.

"I have it here," he recalled Insp. Graham saying. "It's locked up."

Det. Stonehill said it became clear to him that "something was afoot to suppress (that the suspect) had been assaulted while in custody."

Det. Stonehill testified he told Insp. Graham: "This could affect your retirement — your pension."

"I take it you're not willing to go along with this," he said Insp. Graham replied.

Det. Stonehill said he was informed the next day from Det. Sgt. Waller that Det. Ford had been charged with the assault.

Although he was upset over what the two senior officers has allegedly planned to do, Det. Stonehill said it was nearly a year later before he told an assistant crown attorney about the alleged conspiracy.

Peel Regional Police were eventually called in and charged Insp. Graham following an investigation.

Notice of Halton Healthy Lifestyles Coalition Annual Meeting

Halton Healthy Lifestyles Coalition will be holding its **Annual General Meeting on August 15, 1997 at 700 Dorval Dr. Ste. 510, Oakville**

Members are advised that a By-law will be presented for confirmation for the purpose to dissolve the Corporation.

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