

# Harris says HRCA blows money, Penman denies it

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is working on continued financial viability through the ongoing restructuring process.

"He's entitled to his position, but frankly I disagree," Mr. Penman said.

He suggested that Mr. Harris would be in a better position to criticize and influence the board if he had sought another term, but he chose not to do so.

Asked if the HRCA is financially responsible, board member Mayor Gord Krantz replied yes, "without any question whatsoever."

## Keeping cars

Mr. Harris said he also disagrees with the HRCA's decision to hang onto a fleet of passenger vehicles that could be disposed of to save money.

Defending the move, Mr. Krantz said it was determined that the vehicles were needed by staff.

But Mr. Penman said the fate of the cars is still under review in the HRCA's ongoing restructuring.

Mr. Harris' letter to the editor and interview came in support of HRCA director Paul Kidd, who publicly opposed his 15 colleagues' decision to hold a strategy session at the Elmhurst

Inn in Ingersoll.

## Budget of \$10,000

The overnight trip Friday, Sept. 18 will cost an estimated \$200 per person. A budget has been set at about \$4,000 depending on how many HRCA members attend, with another \$6,000 being spent on a private consultant who will act as a facilitator.

Members are expected to concentrate on restructuring the environmental watershed protection organization to do its job efficiently and form new community partnerships.

A confidential HRCA operations review con-

ducted by the consulting firm Randolph Group states that there's a perceived "lack of common vision and strategy on the overall future direction of the authority."

It raises questions such as; what is the main purpose of the authority and how should members manage the sometimes competing priorities around conservation and recreation?

The report, obtained by The Champion, hasn't been made public because it contains personnel issues, said HRCA general manager Theresa Maguire-Garber. But she said it will be public in the future.

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