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House should go down, says angry neighbour

• from **MAN CHARGED** on page 1
 "Then it all kind of blew over," said Mr. Pickfield. "My view is it is much ado about nothing."
 But Mr. Saliba said that while he did raise the cane, it wasn't until after he had been socked in the eye.
 "I don't deny it," he said. "After getting punched in the eye, wouldn't you do the

same?"
 The incident occurred after council voted to deny Mr. Martin's request for a temporary zoning bylaw amendment permitting six to eight off-shore farm workers to live in a second home built on his property.
 Mr. Martins rents 300 acres of land for his crops, and owns another 15 acres.
 According to Town bylaws, the owned

portion of Mr. Martins property is too small to support two homes.
 But after building a new home for the family, Mr. Martins realized that the former home would be needed to shelter off-shore workers.
 "(The foreign workers) are now essential to the viability of the operation," said Mr. Pickfield. "They have the know-how he needs."

next few years, he will be under a spotlight," said Mr. Pickfield. "It is a test for him."

But any relaxation of the bylaw was bitterly opposed by Mr. Saliba, who said there should not be different rules for those who abide by bylaws and those who break them.

"Apparently in this town, our bylaws don't mean a thing," he told council. "Apparently there are laws for Tony Martin that are different than for anyone else. I think this is ridiculous. The house should go down."

Mr. Saliba also objected when Councillor Rick Day suggested that the proposal should go through the regular process — which would lead to a technical report from staff — rather than be rejected outright.

"Regardless of the history, the Martins are entitled to a hearing, entitled to a say," said Mr. Day.

That prompted an angered Mr. Saliba to cry out from the benches, "That is the most absurd thing, what you just said."

Mr. Martins later said he felt council had treated him poorly.

"Why don't you put it in the paper that they treated me like a second-class citizen. You have a council who doesn't know how to read a court order," he said.

Voting to kill the application before reading a planning report submitted by Mr. Martins is atypical, said Mr. Pickfield.

"It is highly unusual that council would make a decision on a matter without getting the advice of their staff or reviewing the planning document," he said. "It floors me. I don't think he was treated fairly. I think he was treated unfairly."

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