

Melanson earns top grade for attendance

Penman, Lunau and Challinor each missed only three meetings

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

When it comes to attendance, Councillor Art Melanson is a high achiever.

According to the Town's 1999 attendance sheet, Mr. Melanson was present for every meeting held that year.

And councillors Brian Penman, Cindy Lunau and John Challinor also proved they were no slackers. They each racked up 44 out of a possible 47 meetings.

Mayor Gord Krantz managed to make 42 of the 47 meetings. He was trailed closely by Councillor Ron Furik, who showed up for 41 meetings.

They were followed by Councillors Rick Malboeuf at 39, Barry Lee at 38, Wally Hunter at 37 and Rick Day at 32.

But Mr. Day fared worse in his role as a council representative on the Heritage Milton (LACAG) committee. Of the 11 meetings held, he showed up once.

Coming in last in the council chambers seat warming race is Councillor Lieven Gevaert. He attended 20 of the 47 1999 meetings.

For their work, councillors are offered a base salary of \$11,684. But that can be deflated through taking voluntary pay cuts. It can also be boosted through the payment of expenses for out of town conferences and workshops.

Overall, \$16,445 was the highest haul, earned by Ms Lunau, who attends many conferences on behalf of the Town.

The lowest take was nothing at all — Mr. Gevaert opted to refuse his salary for the full year.

Conferences helped hike Mr. Penman's take-home pay to \$13,206, while mileage expenses allowed Mr. Lee to pocket \$12,434.

Mr. Melanson, Mr. Day and Mr. Furik all took home the base salary only. Taking pay cuts were Mr. Challinor, \$7,932, Mr. Hunter, \$8,179 and Mr. Malboeuf, \$10,516.

Mr. Krantz, the only full-time member of council, earned \$41,094 for the year.

Currently, the Town council schedule works on a three week cycle of two committee meetings, followed by a meeting of full council.

All councillors have a vote at council, as

well as on one of the two committees.

Attendance is expected at council meetings and at the committee the councillor can vote on.

But many councillors attend meetings even without a vote, to keep on top of relevant issues.

No action can be taken: OMA

• from GEVAERT on page 3
He said he has changed flights in order to attend important Milton meetings.

But he also has a loyalty to the Israel company he has been helping out.

It employs 200 people in an area where jobs are scarce.

"The company keeps about

1,000 people going.

The salaries that come out of there support three or four people," he said.

"If this company goes under, all of a sudden there are 200 jobs lost."

Mr. Gevaert noted that during his first year of this term, his attendance was near perfect.

And according to Ontario Municipal Act (OMA) regulations, he hasn't been away long enough to be turfed from his position.

The OMA states that a councillor must miss three full months of council duty before action can be taken to remove him from the post.

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In our February 23-29 flyer, the following error occurred:

- The Canon BJC-1000 Lite Colour Printer advertised on page 1 for \$59.99 (after rebate), should have stated "\$20.00 Manufacturer Mail-in Rebate", NOT \$20.00 Instant Rebate.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.