

# Council squabbles an embarrassment, says Mayor Krantz

By IRENE GENTLE  
The Champion

Internal squabbling bogged down two recent town council meetings, and most members agree the gatherings were divisive.

But what that means for the future appears to be a matter of opinion.

Mayor Gord Krantz said meetings December 18 and January 8 were embarrassing.

"I was ashamed of it," he said. "Theatrics and backwoods politics, that's what it was. I just hope it's not a prelude of things to come in the next three years."

He said he'll work to stop council for cannibalizing itself.

"There's no room for personal vendettas," said Mr. Krantz.

But Councillor Brian Penman said personal politics will likely be swept aside.

"One of the worst things about politics is that politics sometimes gets in the road," he said. "But once it gets down to the significant issues of the town, you'll just see flashes of these personalities."

Disagreement often leads to positive debate, offered Councillor Cindy Lunau.

"I think probably most people think debate around the council table is divisive and not good," she said. "I disagree, as long as the comments aren't personal. A healthy discussion, even if it's a close vote, is a good thing."

But council will have to fight to stay on track, said Councillor Wally Hunter.

"The main thing is that it doesn't become dysfunctional," he said. "Keep it



Gord Krantz

Hunter. "But my opinion is we can get around these issues."

For rookie Councillor Ken Keates, it's all a matter of focus.

"I think we need to set a few things aside," he said. "There seems to be some things that existed before I got on council that's deadlocking some people."

But the changing dynamic could lead to more improved discussion, said Councillor Rick Malboeuf.

"There has always been a slant on one side and that seems to be breaking down," he said. "Now we'll get a wider diversity of opinion."

A new faction appears to be rising within council, noted Councillor Ron Furik.

"I hope it's not a new boys club trying to supplant an old boys club," he said. "It's disgraceful. I'm not a part of that. I don't want to be a part of that."

But he thinks the furor will likely die down soon.

"My observation is it always seems to the first meeting or two is unsettling," said Mr. Furik. "Then it seems to calm down."

His prediction appeared to be borne out by Monday's budget meeting, which unfolded without acrimony.

on the issues, otherwise it'll be a very painful three years."

But a recent meeting proved personalities can sometimes intervene, to ill effect.

"It was a disastrous meeting," acknowledged Mr.



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## Notice of the Niagara Escarpment Plan Review Hearing

Section 17(1) of the *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act (NEPDA)* requires a periodic review of the Niagara Escarpment Plan. On June 15, 1999, the Honourable John C. Snobelen, Minister of Natural Resources, initiated this Review. Terms of Reference, dated December 5, 2000, were issued and describe how the Review will be conducted in terms of both the items to be reviewed and the conduct of the Review, subject to the provisions of the *NEPDA*. The *NEPDA* requires that a public hearing be conducted. In order to ensure an open and fair hearing process, the Hearing Officers, in adopting Rules of Procedure, shall endeavour to:

- make the Review as non-adversarial as possible;
- provide for the submission and evaluation of written submissions prior to the hearing;
- increase to the degree possible the early resolution of issues.

The Hearing Officers will conduct a public hearing to consider the review Topics as established by the Terms of Reference. The following matters are to be considered in the Review:

- Estate Wineries;
- Rural Tourism;
- Signage
- Environmental Monitoring;
- Intensive Recreational Development in Escarpment Parks and the Status of Land Trusts.

The following items are either to include changes to the Plan maps and text that are factually in error or to update the Plan or maps to reflect changes that have occurred subsequent to approval of the current Niagara Escarpment Plan:

- Production of new Plan maps (reprints GIS 1:50,000 Plan maps only);
- Plan Errata;
- Plan Text.

On January 15, 2001, the Hearing Officers issued proposed Rules of Procedure, proposed Procedural Directions and a proposed Guideline. Persons who wish to comment on these documents may do so before February 15, 2001, sending their written comments to the Niagara Escarpment Hearing Office.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference, the Hearing Officers will rely in large part upon electronic written submissions made by persons wishing to file materials relevant to the Review Topics. On January 15, 2001, the Hearing Officers issued Procedural Order Number 1 which sets out the following: the dates and times of the Hearing, the Review Topics as established by the Terms of Reference; the process for establishing the Rules of Procedure that the Hearing will follow; the process for receiving written submissions, for asking and answering questions from the written submissions and the process for establishing the order of oral presentations at the Hearing.

Accordingly, the Hearing Officers intend to issue other procedural orders that will set the schedule for filing written submissions and the order of oral presentations at the Hearing. The timeframe for filing written submissions will be from April 16, 2001 to June 6, 2001. All written submissions will be posted on the Niagara Escarpment

Hearing Office's website as soon as possible after receipt.

Generally, the Hearing will be conducted as daily sessions, five days a week, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., beginning on July 16, 2001 through August 10, 2001.

The four-week timeframe allocated for the Hearing might - at the discretion of the Hearing Officers - be expanded, if required, to include part of the weeks of August 13 to August 17, 2001 and August 20 to August 24, 2001.

A limited amount of time will be available in the evening sessions for presentations by Participants, who because of exceptional circumstances, cannot attend daytime sessions. Persons wishing to make an evening presentation must provide the hearing Office with detailed written reasons why they cannot attend a daytime session.

The Hearing will begin on **Monday, July 16, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.**, in the Committee Room Lower Level, Town of Orangeville, Municipal Office, 87 Broadway, Orangeville, Ontario and continue if necessary, on July 17, 18, 19 and 20, 2001. Evening sessions will be held on Tuesday, July 17, 2001 and Thursday, July 19, 2001 commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Dufferin Room, Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre, 40 Fead Street, Orangeville, Ontario.

The Hearing will continue on **Monday, July 23, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.**, in the council Chambers, City of St. Catharines, City Hall, 50 Church Street, St. Catharines, Ontario and continue, if necessary, on July 24, 25, 26 and 27, 2001. Evening sessions will be held on Tuesday, July 24, 2001 and Thursday, July 26, 2001 commencing at 7:00 p.m., in Committee Room 1, at the same location.

The Hearing will continue on **Monday, July 30, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.**, in Owen Sound, in the Sound Room, Lumley Bayshore Community Centre, 1900 3rd Avenue East, Owen Sound, Ontario and continue, if necessary, on July 31, 2001 and August 1, 2 and 3, 2001. Evening sessions will be held on Tuesday, July 31, 2001 and Thursday, August 2, 2001 commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the same location.

The Hearing will continue on **Tuesday, August 7, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.**, in the Council Chambers, Town of Milton, Town Hall, 43 Brown Street, Milton, Ontario and continue, if necessary, on August 8, 9 and 10, 2001. Evening sessions will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2001 and Thursday, August 9, 2001 commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the same location.

All documents issued by the Hearing Office are available electronically on its website at [www.ert.gov.on.ca](http://www.ert.gov.on.ca). For further information about the hearing, please contact Susan Dunn, Niagara Escarpment Hearing Office at (416) 314-4600. The Office accepts collect calls.

**DATED at TORONTO, this 15th day of January, 2001.**

Susan E. Dunn  
Niagara Escarpment Hearing Office

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