

Town council may acquire code of conduct; staff looking into it

By RICHARD VIVIAN

The Champion

In an effort to clear up any perceptions of inappropriateness, a code of conduct is needed for members of town council, says Councillor Rick Malboeuf.

"It's easy to say no rules were broken if there are no rules," Mr. Malboeuf told town council Monday, referring to the previously-heated debate over the fundraising

efforts of a member of council. "I believe it is imperative we establish a code of conduct."

While supportive of the motion to investigate a code of conduct, Mayor Gord Krantz warned councillors of the potential waste of time that could follow. Council could become little more than a place to argue each others' actions, he cautioned.

"It could be easy to get bogged down with following the code of conduct," he

said. "I've seen it happen."

Following a brief discussion between council, Town staff were directed to investigate what other municipalities have included in their codes of conduct and prepare a report to council on the matter. No timeline was set for the report.

Councillors are currently held to restrictions within the Municipal Act regarding conflict of interest and the town council procedural bylaw.

PC leadership debate will be televised

Cogeco is bringing the debate to the people.

Tickets to the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party leadership debate in Oakville Monday have been long sold out, so the local cable provider will bring the

show to households.

The five leadership hopefuls — Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, Environment Minister Elizabeth Witmer, Labour Minister Chris Stockwell, Health Minister Tony Clement and former Finance

Minister Ernie Eves — will vie for votes at 7:30 p.m.

Then Cogeco will air a taped version of the debate at 9:30 p.m.

Party members will choose a leader and the next Ontario premier March 23.

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