

Former Milton lawyer disbarred

James Sinclair ordered to make \$2.5 million in restitution to clients

A former Milton lawyer was disbarred last week by the Law Society of Upper Canada for professional misconduct for misappropriating more than \$3 million in client funds.

James William Sinclair, 57, a member of the bar for 30 years, was also ordered to make almost \$2.5 million restitution to 14 former clients.

Mr. Sinclair has already returned \$521,000 in misappropriated funds.

According to documents from the Law Society of Upper Canada, Mr. Sinclair misappropriated funds from 14 clients ranging from a low of \$17,017 to a high of \$789,149 between May 1998 and June 2000.

Mr. Sinclair hasn't been working as a lawyer since July 2001.

The Law Society of Canada launched an investigation into complaints from Mr. Sinclair's clients in May 2000.

Mr. Sinclair purchased the Milton law practice of Tom Holden, a retired lawyer, in 1992 and subsequently sold the assets of Holden and Sinclair to Douglas Quirt.

In addition to the restitution order, Mr. Sinclair was ordered to pay \$57,000 to the society's Lawyers Fund for Client Compensation.

It wasn't the first time Mr. Sinclair had been disciplined by the Law Society of Upper Canada.

In 1999, Mr. Sinclair was reprimanded by the society and fined \$2,500 for professional misconduct and ordered to pay another \$2,500 to the society to cover the costs of its investigation and discipline proceedings.

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TALK of the TOWN

A monthly feature from the Town of Milton

Prepare Now - Learn How!

Emergencies can strike at anytime. Are you and your family prepared to deal with a situation or threat affecting your property, health and/or safety? During National Emergency Preparedness Week, take time to review the opportunities available to help you prevent or prepare for emergency situations.

Obtain a "Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide" – it's a valuable addition for every home or business providing information to help you care for yourself, your family, and your neighbours. This booklet provides common sense steps for you to take right now to ensure you're prepared. Find it by visiting the Fire Department, on the Town of Milton's website at www.town.milton.on.ca.

National Emergency Preparedness Week - May 5-9, 2003

Visit Town Hall Milton, 43 Brown Street between 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and browse through the displays and materials that will be available throughout the week to help you prepare for an emergency. Information about Milton's Emergency Response Plan, which would be implemented in the event of a natural or man-made emergency, will also be available.

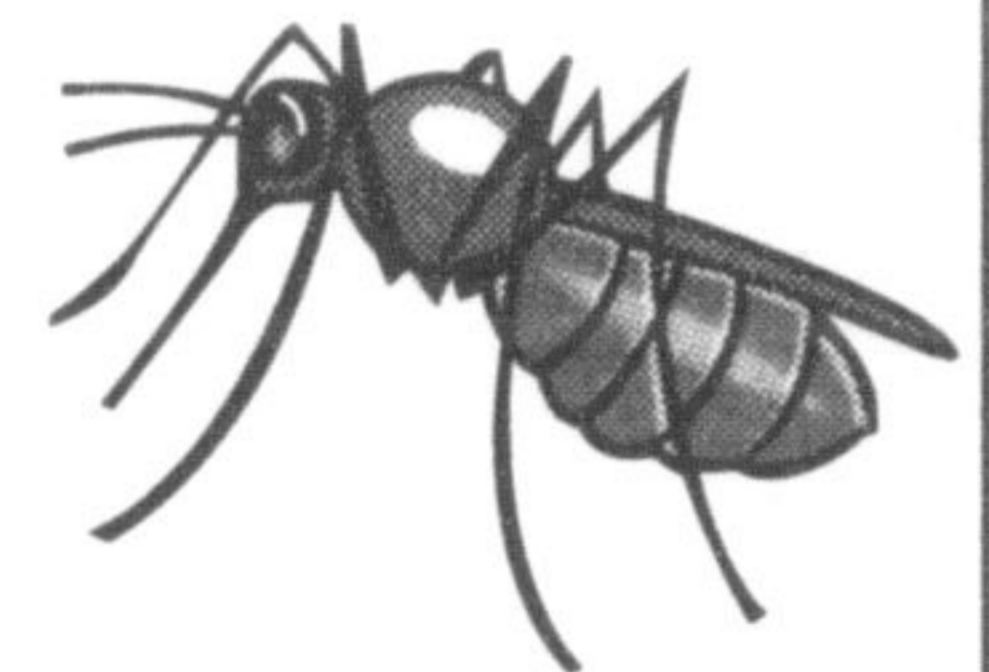
Help Control West Nile Virus

There is no specific treatment and no vaccine available to combat West Nile Virus (WNV), a disease that affects birds and can be transmitted to humans through bites of infected mosquitoes. Therefore, the Halton Region Health Department is requesting that everyone in the community do their part to help control WNV. This includes protecting yourself while you enjoy evening's outdoors, as well as reporting dead bird sightings, and helping to reduce mosquito-breeding sites.

Dead bird surveillance is used to confirm the presence of WNV – if you find a dead bird, do not touch it until you have contacted the Health Department at 905-825-6187, toll free at 1-866-442-5866, or by TTY at 905-827-9833.

You can also help by getting rid of places where mosquitoes are likely to breed. For example,

- Remove or drain any containers where water may stand for more than 4 days
- Cover rain barrels with mesh or screen
- Remove water that collects on pool covers and make sure your pool's pump is circulating water properly
- Clear leaves and twigs from gutter, storm, and roof gutters throughout the summer
- Immediately throw away raked leaves, and other decaying items like apples or berries
- Turn over compost piles on a regular basis

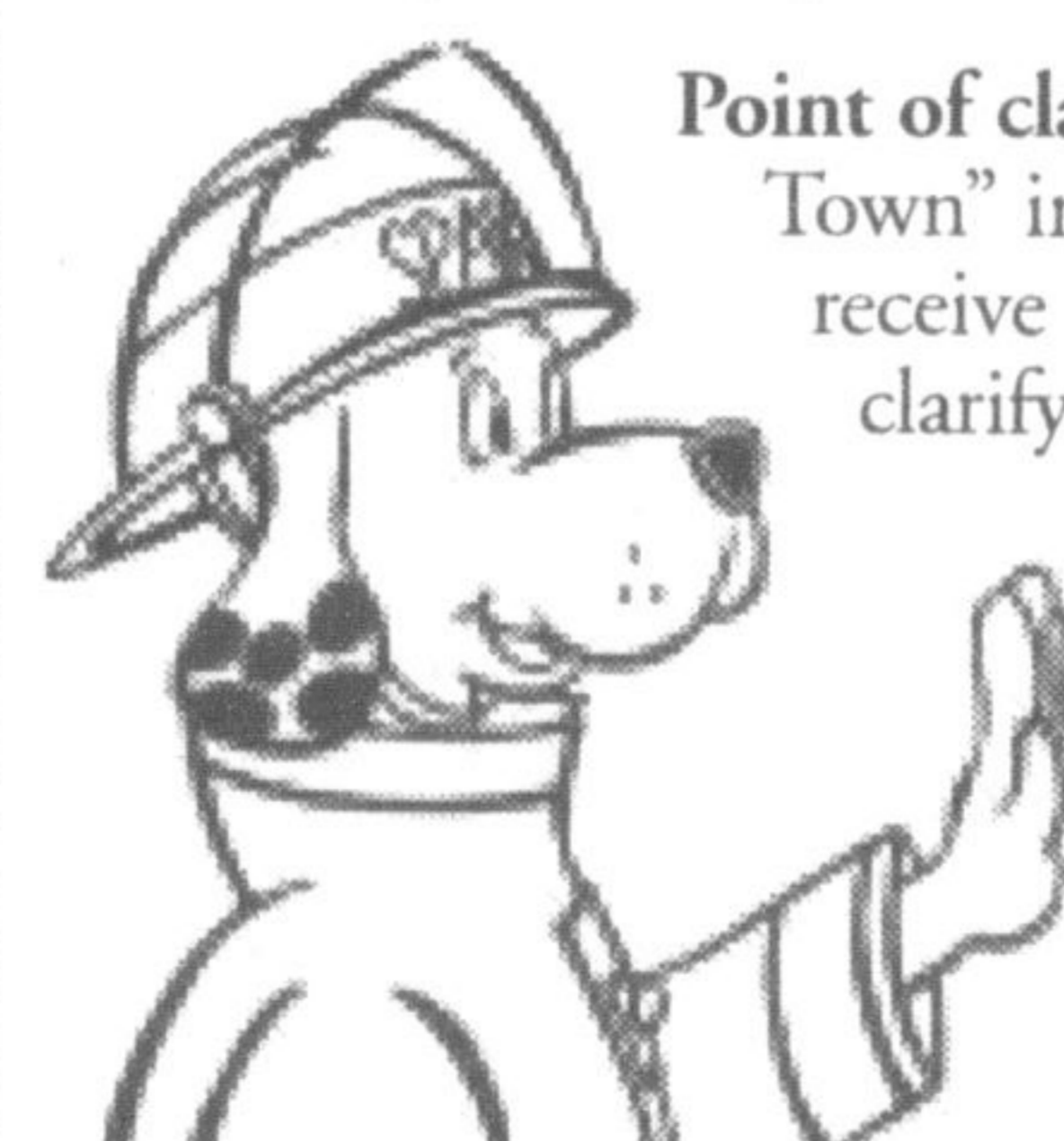


Protect yourself and members of your family by wearing clothing that will prevent mosquitoes from biting. More information about safe use of insect repellent and potential mosquito breeding sites is available on the Region's website at www.region.halton.on.ca

"Learn Now" – By-law changes may affect your property

The Planning & Development Department is undertaking a Comprehensive Zoning By-law review to ensure that the provisions and standards related to building and development in Milton are in conformity with the Town's future directions.

All property owners and tenants are encouraged to learn more about the proposed changes to the Zoning By-law as it may affect your property. The new Draft Zoning By-law can be viewed at the Planning & Development Department, the Milton Public Library, or on the Town's website at www.town.milton.on.ca under "Zoning By-law". Comments regarding the draft By-law changes are welcome and must be received by the Planning & Development Department on or before June 6, 2003.



Point of clarification: The March edition of "Talk of the Town" indicated that every mailbox in Milton would receive notice of approval of the Zoning By-law. To clarify, the Notice of the Passing of the Comprehensive Zoning By-law will only be sent to those requesting the notice in writing, in addition to being placed in the local newspaper.

And a final tip from "Sparky" Smoke Alarms Save Lives. Protect your family and home by changing the batteries regularly.

NEED INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER TOWN SERVICES?

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