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Boathouse is a great unisex clothing store that caters to the surf, skate, snow and hip-hop lifestyle. They carry a huge selection of clothing, shoes and accessories from Quiksilver, Roxy, Billabong, Volcom, Phat Farm. Visit Boathouse in their new location on the lower level across from Telus.

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Councillors to get pay raise of 3%

By MELANIE HENNESSEY

The Champion

Town council members voted in favour of giving themselves a three per cent raise at Monday night's meeting, costing taxpayers an extra \$7,000 this year.

The new pay rate means Mayor Gord Krantz will go from making \$44,339 to \$45,669 and councillors from \$19,039 to \$19,610.

Council also decided to make the raise retroactive to January 1 of this year.

A report from Treasurer and Director of Corporate Services Jim McQueen said council salaries were compared to those in other Ontario municipalities, where the average salary is \$50,348 for mayors and \$21,020 for councillors.

A hot topic of the night was whether or not to do away with the 1/3 tax-free allowance council members have.

Mr. McQueen's report said if the allowance is taken away, salaries could be adjusted to \$52,650 for mayor and \$21,450 for councillor to compensate.

"If council does make a decision to drop the 1/3 tax-free allowance, it's permanent and can't be reversed," the report said.

Wards 1 and 3 Councillor Barry Lee was one of the council members that favoured banishing the tax break.

"It's important that we be on a level playing field with staff and everyone else," he said.

Wards 2 and 4 Councillor Ron Furik disagreed with Mr. Lee, saying that council can't tell residents taxes are going up because its members are making more money.

A motion to keep the 1/3 tax-free allowance passed.

Mr. McQueen's report also outlined other perks council members have, such as a mileage rate of 44.7 cents per km. Councillors have one 407 transponder to share, while Mr. Krantz has a desktop computer, cell phone, 407 transponder and \$429.34 per month car allowance.

All council members have benefits, covering life, dental, drugs and vision care, with the premiums being paid for 50/50 by the Town and councillors.

Benefit and expense issues were referred to the 2005 budget preparation discussions.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

**Take back control
of your lawn**

Stamp out mosquitoes!

With the outbreak of the West Nile virus, more people than ever are concerned about mosquitoes. In addition to West Nile, mosquitoes carry malaria and other diseases. Fortunately, with a little bit of effort, you can prevent them from breeding in your yard.

Most mosquitoes lay their eggs around water, so any damp or wet place in your yard is a potential breeding ground.

Some of the more common areas to look out for are:

Don't let your yard become a mosquito breeding ground. Check for signs of stagnant water and take care of them immediately.