

Confidential report sent to resident by mistake

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A private Town of Milton document regarding Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing costs has accidentally been leaked to the public.

Local resident Tracey Demaline said he recently received the report that's stamped 'confidential' from Town staff in the planning and development department.

He told The Champion that he had simply asked staff for any documentation they had regarding condominiums proposed for east Milton that are the subject of an upcoming OMB hearing so that he and other residents can prepare their case against the development.

In the information package he received was a report intended for an administration and planning committee 'in-camera', or closed-door, the session dubbed, "Request to retain legal representation regarding council's refusal of a rezoning application by Maple Crossing Developments Inc."

The news that Mr. Demaline had the document came as a surprise to Mayor Gord Krantz, who said he finds it "astounding

and amazing" that he was in receipt of the confidential item.

"We've got a big problem if you're receiving confidential reports," he said.

Town solicitor Hal Watson told The Champion he wasn't aware of the document leak either.

He said the individual who received the report has to respect its confidentiality.

"The fact of the matter is the person who got it really has a duty not to disclose (the information)," he said, noting he'd have to think about what recourse there could be in this situation.

Director of Planning and Development Mel Iovio said he's been working to track down how the document may have slipped out.

He said he knew the residents had asked for information on Maple Crossing Developments, so it's possible the confidential report may have just been inadvertently included in the package.

"Frankly, I think Tracey should have returned it," he said.

Iovio added that fortunately the information in the report wasn't particularly sensitive.

"I'm concerned that something did slip out, but mistakes are made," he said.

The report recommends that council authorize staff to retain legal representation and consultants to attend the OMB hearing in support of council's refusal of the rezoning application that would've permitted the development of five four-storey condominiums at the northeast corner of Maple Avenue and Main Street.

Council didn't support the recommendation and has since reached a settlement with the developer, meaning it won't be defending its original position against the condos at the hearing.

The report explains that because staff's position was in favour of the zoning bylaw amendment for the condos, "council will further be required to hire independent experts to provide testimony before the Ontario Municipal Board with respect to planning and engineering matters."

It says that the Town's solicitor estimates it would cost about \$25,000, plus GST and disbursements, for a lawyer to prepare for and attend the hearing.

• see OMB on page A7



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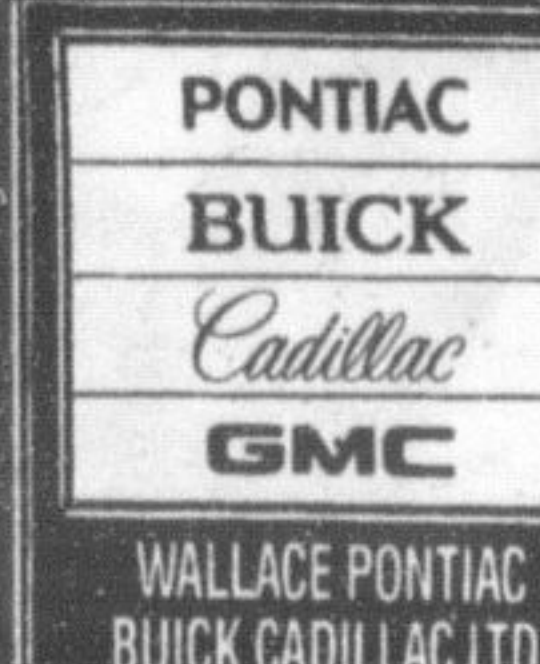
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