

# Just love my job says former administrator

Ask former Halton chief administrator Dennis Perlin what he thinks about being Toronto's chief solicitor and he'll tell you "I love it." "It's really, really great."

Mr. Perlin said he is in a different world now far away from the days when he would debate councillors at Halton over many subjects of civil administration. Now he is in his specialty, law.

"They (council) may take or leave my opinions but they don't argue with them."

"They don't have the qualifications to challenge a legal opinion."

"When I was CAO, I was really the chief policy advisor."

"But everybody is an administrator. Any citizen's opinion is just as valid in policy formulation."

"With this job, there is less arguing."

Mr. Perlin said that his knowing the limits of the law as a solicitor for Halton before becoming CAO helped him greatly in the function as chief administrator.

He said his new job has not been a big adjustment. He said it is roughly the same as the job he held as solicitor at Halton, albeit the staff is considerably larger. Halton had five lawyers to oversee, Toronto has 80.

"But you can't compare the two. They're two different ballgames. The complexity of the problems is much greater."

Whereas in Halton Mr. Perlin was in charge of a municipality which was developing through new subdivisions, Toronto is fully developed and problems there revolve around rezonings and apartment conversions. His job, he said, is to draft bylaws and give advice to Toronto council and other governmental bodies such as the Toronto Historical Society.

Many issues he faces concern affor-

dable housing. He said the best way to solve that is for the city to buy land and rent commercial space to help subsidize residential rents in the same complex.

Another major problem concerns the railway lands south of the Gardiner Expressway which the city is trying to develop as parkland. And it can go from that to negotiating the terms of lease for Yuppies

Restaurant to be operated in the Beaches area of Toronto.

He said he is still learning every day about the mass of issues under consideration. And he's still feeling out the "significant management" of his job. Right now, Mr. Perlin is in the process of meeting with each of his new staff to discuss ideas for change.

He plans to computerize the department's systems to keep track, partly,

of employee production. He said he would also like to see a central-by-law register at the building board to replace the system now in place. So far he has no plans for the restructuring of his own department which he says is sadly lacking in secretarial staff.

He leaves for work from Burlington at 6:15 a.m. and doesn't leave his of-

fice until 6:45-7:30 p.m. He said the worst part of his job is not having the time to put into preparing reports.

"Sometimes you later realize you could have done it better," he said.

Mr. Perlin says his role in Halton with respect to the new landfill site is "yet to be defined" although he expects to be called to the environmen-

tal assessment hearing as a witness when a date is set.

As for now he says he is "just a citizen enjoying living here."

For the moment he has no further plans for advancement.

"I guess there's always some exciting challenge out there. But right now this is terrific."

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9:45 a.m. - Bible School with classes for all ages  
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