

The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, September 14, 1994

Showdown looms on paying Pomeroy's legal bills

By LISA TALLYN
Special to The Champion

Halton Hills regional councillor Bill Robson says he received a threatening phone call Thursday after stating publicly that he was appalled taxpayers are picking up the tab for Halton regional chair Peter Pomeroy's legal expenses.

A man called him at home Thursday at 5:45 p.m., warning, "we're going to have to take care of you," and calling the councillor "a

sick puppy," Mr. Robson recounted. The councillor reported the incident to police, and they are investigating.

Mr. Robson is in the forefront of what promises to be a showdown about paying Mr. Pomeroy's legal costs today (Wednesday) at regional council.

Oakville Councillor Keith Bird plans to challenge that payment by pushing for an amendment to a recently passed regional bylaw sanctioning the procedure.

Mr. Pomeroy faces multiple criminal counts alleging breach of trust and accepting a payoff from a land developer. The charges surround land development in Halton Hills, and were laid in the spring of 1993.

Regional council passed a bylaw June 1 which approved financial protection for employees and elected officials involved in litigation. But "this should not cover criminal charges of the nature of Pomeroy's charges," said Mr. Robson. "That is not what we were trying to establish

for indemnification. Breach of trust charges do not stem from the commission of his duties."

He added there must be a dividing line involving the bylaw's interpretation, and covering Mr. Pomeroy's costs is a "quantum leap" from what council intended. "Council should make the differentiation. It was certainly not to get into personal criminal charges."

He also said council should have been consulted by regional staff before a decision was made to pay Mr. Pomeroy's \$28,000 legal bill.

Today Mr. Bird said he plans to introduce an amendment aimed at correcting what he sees as two flaws; the amendment's apparent retroactive clause and the fact it covers criminal charges.

Mr. Bird said employees facing charges, criminal or civil, that are not job-related should not be entitled to compensation from the Region.



Peter Pomeroy

"It was not intended to be a bottomless pit," Mr. Bird noted. "There is a loophole in the intent of the bylaw that someone is driving a truck through."

If Mr. Bird's amendment is passed, the Region won't pay up-front legal

costs for staff or elected officials facing job-related criminal charges, but will reimburse the person to the level of what is considered a reasonable amount if no conviction results.

Mr. Bird said he is willing to discuss exceptions to the blanket criminal charge exclusion.

He also wants to make certain the bylaw no longer applies to people charged prior to June 1, as is the case with Mr. Pomeroy.

Mr. Bird said he would like to see the funds paid out for Mr. Pomeroy's expenses turned back to Halton Region.

"I would have wished a red flag had gone out before the cheque was issued (for Mr. Pomeroy's fees)," Mr. Bird said.

Halton Hills regional councillor Pam Johnson also plans to introduce amendments to the bylaw at today's meeting.

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Krantz not happy with payment

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
The Champion

A Halton regional bylaw passed June 1 that has taxpayers footing regional chair Peter Pomeroy's legal fees on criminal charges was intended to do the opposite — the fact it doesn't surprise some regional councillors, including Mayor Gord Krantz.

"It was certainly my interpretation that we would not be picking up Mr. Pomeroy's expenses, at least not up front," said Mr. Krantz.

Although the mayor was on holiday in Ottawa when the bylaw was passed, he said he knew of it. He believed the bylaw was "put together in all good faith to plug any misunderstandings."

Mr. Krantz said funds have been expended on behalf of Mr. Pomeroy, however he said he would "hesitate to speculate publicly" on how that payment came about.


"It's a case of 24 of us being wrong in our interpretation and one or two others who were right on the inter-

pretation of how the bylaw may read, or vice versa. It was my understanding and interpretation that no payment would be made up front," said Mr. Krantz. He said councillors rely on legal advice from the regional staff.


"I don't think the taxpayers should have to pick up the costs for Mr. Pomeroy, and definitely not if he's found guilty. Certainly that was our understanding," said Mr. Krantz.

"If he was to be cleared of all charges, the onus would be on somebody to pay the bills, whether that be regional council or the persons who brought the charges," he said. Mr. Pomeroy was charged by a special OPP unit investigating corruption and municipal politics.

"I was under the impression that nothing certainly would be paid until it was resolved," said Mr. Krantz, adding notices of motion from fellow councillors coming forward today are intended to "plug the loophole that may or may not be there." He said the matter may or may not be debated in public in view of its legal overtones.



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON



878-7211

**DEPARTMENT OF LEISURE SERVICES
PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
FACILITY CONCESSION STAFF**

The Department of Leisure Services requires part-time concession staff for various recreation facilities.

SALARY: \$6.70/hr 18 years old + - 15 hrs per week
\$6.25/hr under 18

WORK SCHEDULE: Weeknights and Weekends

JOB FUNCTION: Reports to Concession Supervisor
Responsible for serving public, handling cash & general cleaning duties.

QUALIFICATIONS: Experience with cash registers an asset. Must have good public relation skills.

Interested applicants should submit resume by **Friday, September 23, 1994** to:

Town of Milton
Department of Leisure Services
P.O. Box 1005,
43 Brown Street
Milton, Ontario L9T 4B6

ATTENTION: Bonnie Ward, Manager of Recreation Services

1994 MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOTICE

CORRECTIONS TO THE PRELIMINARY LIST OF ELECTORS

The preliminary list of electors, including all persons entitled to vote in the 1994 Municipal, School Board and Hydro-Electric Commission Elections, will be posted in the Office of the Returning and Revising Officer at the Town of Milton, Municipal Offices, Victoria Park Square, on the 6th day of September, 1994. The final date for filing complaints regarding the list shall be October 14th, 1994.

A copy of the Preliminary List of Electors will also be posted at the following locations:

Ward 1 (Trafalgar) Tim Hortons (Trafalgar Road, south of Hwy. 401) Boyer Community Centre	Ward 2 (Urban Milton) Milton Public Library Milton Town Hall Milton Leisure Centre	Ward 3 (Massasauga) Campbellville Post Office Brookville Trading Post Variety & Gas
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Electors are requested to examine the Preliminary List of Electors to ensure their names and relevant information are correctly shown therein.

Complaints in the nature of requests for additions, corrections or deletions from the Preliminary List may be made by an Elector completing and filing a form obtainable at the Office of the Returning and Revising Officer.

All requests will be received by the Returning and Revising Officer at the Municipal Offices, above mentioned, commencing on Tuesday, September 6th, 1994 through to Friday, October 14th, 1994 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

William Roberts
Returning & Revising Officer
Town of Milton

1994 MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOTICE

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

ELECTION PERSONNEL

To assist with the 1994 Municipal, School Board and Hydro-Electric Commission Elections, as follows:

Milton is composed of three Wards and officials are required from each Ward:

Ward 1	Former Trafalgar/Oakville
Ward 2	Urban Milton
Ward 3	Former Massasauga

In addition, six officials are required for two Advance Polls.

polling Day is Monday, November 14th, 1994 from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Advance Polls are Saturday, November 5th, 1994 and Wednesday, November 9th, 1994 from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

**APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE ABOVE NOTED POSITIONS
ARE AVAILABLE AT
THE TOWN OF MILTON CLERK'S OFFICE,
VICTORIA PARK SQUARE,
OR MAY BE MAILED UPON REQUEST.**

Applications will be received until September 30th, 1994.

William Roberts
Returning Officer and Town Clerk
The Corporation of the Town of Milton

TAX NOTICE

Ratepayers of The Town of Milton are reminded that the Second Installment of the 1994 Final Tax Bill is due on September 30, 1994.

Tax payments must be received in the Tax Office on or before the due date to avoid penalty. Late payment charge of 1 1/4% will be charged on the first day of default and on the first day of each calendar month in which the default continues. It is the responsibility of the ratepayer to ensure that the taxes are paid by the due date, even in the event that the bill is not received as mailed.

Taxes may be paid at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Main St. Milton (there is a small service charge).

Payment by phone is also available if you bank with Canada Trust, TD Bank, CIBC, and Bank of Montreal. Please call them for details.

Installments may be paid by cheques postdated for the due dates.

If you require information about taxes, please contact the Treasury Department at 878-7211, ext 147. Treasury Office business hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.