

# Confusion reigns at Halton as councillors leave legal debate

By ANGELA BLACKBURN  
The Champion

Amid confusion and a hint of legal action against five Halton regional councillors, including Mayor Gord Krantz, council passed a new legal fees compensation bylaw at its last meeting of this term Wednesday.

Bewilderment was the order of the day however, as five councillors were quickly advised to declare a conflict based on potential litigation and get out of what became a lengthy closed door debate on the Region's compensation bylaw.

The bylaw, first passed last June, saw regional Chair Peter Pomeroy claim \$28,800 in legal fees on criminal charges before the process exploded in public controversy.

In the wake of that tumult, the bylaw was slated for public review and payments under it were frozen. Council stopped short of asking Mr. Pomeroy to repay the money already spent but two weeks ago, set up an ad hoc committee to explore the risk of litigation against the Region due to the bylaw review. Council wanted the matter cleaned up before the new regional council takes office next week.

Mr. Pomeroy vacated the chair Wednesday, his last meeting as regional chair, with a conflict on the issue. Council then moved behind closed doors, but shortly after four councillors trudged outside, having been advised to declare a conflict by the committee.

The councillors were Mr. Krantz, Oakville's Keith Bird, Rick Bonnette and Bill Robson, both of Halton Hills. Halton Hills councillor Pam Johnston was also named however the councillor, who isn't returning for another term, wasn't present.

"No one had to declare a conflict but given the information we were



Gord Krantz

given of the possibility of us being named to some future charges, we did," said Mr. Krantz.

Mr. Bonnette admitted he was "stunned" at the turn of events while Mr. Bird was equally taken aback, acknowledging he hadn't expected it when he arrived for Wednesday's council meeting.

Mr. Robson, who was a member of the ad hoc committee which advised the councillors of the potential for litigation, left regional headquarters almost immediately while the others remained late into the afternoon as council continued behind closed doors.

"I know I went in prepared to deal with it and literally got blown out of the water and excluded from the debate," said Mr. Krantz yesterday morning, adding, "I'm puzzled about the whole sequence of events from yesterday."

Several of the five people named had questioned the previous bylaw's use for compensation in regard to criminal charges, but Mr. Krantz said he wasn't sure what common link the five shared and wouldn't speculate on it publicly.

"Other than being elected people, four of us coming back and one not, I wouldn't have a clue. I don't know of any common thread that would link the five of us in possible litigation, other than being directors of the (Halton regional) corporation," said Mr. Krantz.

The mayor suggested that when sued, a corporation usually has its directors named and offered that instead of "broad-brushing" all regional councillors, perhaps only a handful would be named.

Mr. Krantz said the advice on potential conflict came from the ad hoc committee. He said he "would only suspect" the threat of litigation would come from Mr. Pomeroy. "I wouldn't know who else it could come from."

However, Mr. Pomeroy said yesterday, "I have no lawsuit against anybody at this point in time."

Mr. Pomeroy said he had done nothing that would have resulted in the five regional councillors having to declare a conflict.

The regional chair said he was unaware of the outcome of Wednesday's meeting, the existence of the new compensation bylaw or how it might be applied in his case.

"I know the long debate in-camera dealt with my issue specifically," he said, adding, "I have no idea of how what they did yesterday affects me." The new bylaw was supported in a recorded vote of 9-7.

Oakville's Liz Behrens, who chaired the committee under which the previous bylaw had passed and then came under fire as councillors claimed they hadn't been aware of its full ramifications, said she supported the new bylaw's content but not the quick way it was passed.

"I've had this in my hands for less than 10 minutes. I've not had the

• see CONFUSION on page 8

## WALLACE USED VEHICLE CLEARANCE CENTRE

Financing From  
**8.75%**

MINIMUM 6 MONTH,  
10,000 km POWERTRAIN  
WARRANTY STANDARD  
ON MOST VEHICLES



'94 PONTIAC SUNBIRD LE COUPE  
White, 5 speed, AM/FM cass.,  
1 owner, 26,000 km.

**\$11,998**



'93 SUNFIRE  
Metallic raspberry, 5 speed, air cond., alloy  
wheels, AM/FM cass., more, balance of  
factory warranty.

**\$12,995**



'91 6000 LE  
V6, auto, dark blue, tilt, AM/FM cass., wire  
wheels, & more.

**\$8,999**



'90 SUNBIRD GT COUPE  
Red, 5 speed, air cond., AM/FM  
cass., alloy wheels, tilt, sunroof &  
more

**\$9,488**



'91 CHEV CAVALIER Z-24  
V6, Burgundy, 5 speed, AM/FM  
cass., tilt, 1 yr. unlimited km power-  
train warranty.

**\$9,868**



'92 GRAND AM SE 4 DR. SEDAN  
Quad 4, auto., air cond., power  
windows & locks, tilt, cruise,  
AM/FM  
cassette.

**\$10,998**



'91 REGAL GRAND SPORT  
White & Silver, V6 auto., air cond., digital  
dash, P.W. & locks, tilt, cruise,  
AM/FM cass. & alloy wheels

**\$13,988**



'92 GMC SONOMA 4X4 EXT. CAB  
V6, auto, air cond., tilt, cruise, AM/FM  
cass. P/W, P/L, alloy wheels & more..  
64,000 km.

**\$16,998**



'94 SUBURBAN 4 X 4  
Blue & silver, V8, auto., air cond., rear  
heater, bucket seats, P/W & locks, tilt,  
cruise, AM/FM cass., fully loaded.

**\$16,998**



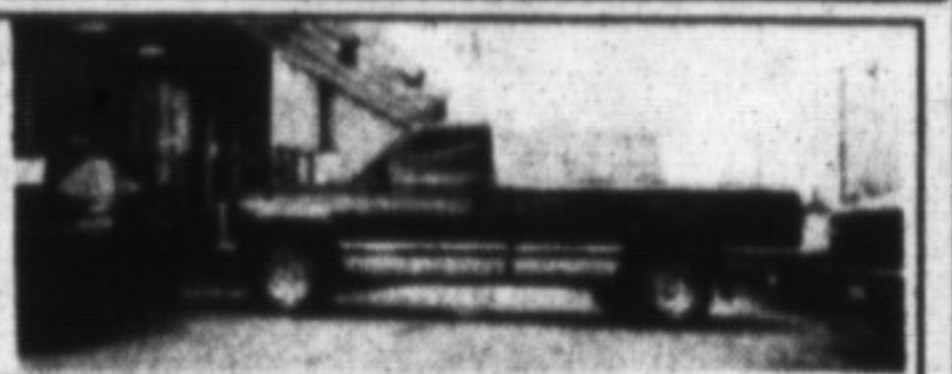
'92 GMC SLX  
V6, auto, air cond., tilt, cruise, AM/FM  
cass. P/W, P/L, alloy wheels &  
more.  
64,000 km.

**\$16,998**



1990 CHEV 1500  
V8, auto, AM/FM cass., cruise, tilt,  
rally wheels. Finished in metallic sil-  
ver.

**\$11,998**



1989 GMC WRANGLER  
2 tone black & silver, V8, auto, tilt,  
cruise, AM/FM cass, air cond., rally  
wheels, Box  
liner & more.

**\$11,998**



1992 CHEV SILVERADO  
Charcoal Grey, 4x4, 2 door, AM/FM  
cass., tilt, cruise, P/W, P/L,  
run flat tires, white ready

**\$18,998**

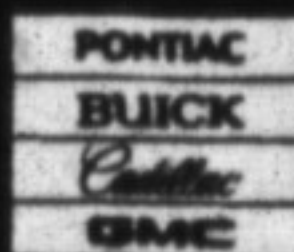


'92 PLYMOUTH VOYAGER SE  
White, 7 pass., V6, auto., air cond.,  
power locks, deep tint, running  
boards, AM/FM cass.,  
tilt, cruise,  
76,000 km

**\$15,888**

'92 & newer available 8.75%  
No limit to finance. Taxes & license extra

# Wallace



WE SERVICE WHAT WE SELL  
• ALWAYS MORE TO CHOOSE •

## T's the Season for Holiday Hoopla

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>14KT YELLOW GOLD<br/>HOOP EARRING<br/>25 mm Round<br/>Reg. \$60.00<br/>Special <b>\$39.00</b></p>  | <p>14KT YELLOW GOLD<br/>HOOP EARRING<br/>15 mm Round<br/>Reg. \$40.00<br/>Special <b>\$29.00</b></p> |
| <p>14KT YELLOW GOLD<br/>HOOP EARRING<br/>35 mm Round<br/>Reg. \$100.00<br/>Special <b>\$69.00</b></p> |  |

12 Styles & Sizes to choose from  
Shop Early for Best Selection!

OPEN  
Sunday, December  
4th, 11th & 18th

Serving  
Milton  
since 1966

**Brancier**  
Designers and Craftsmen of fine jewellery

Certified  
Gemologist  
Appraiser

876-4367 MILTON MALL 876-GEMS