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Lawsuit dropped by Stouffville firm

By CHRIS BOVIE
 Durham Staff

A lawsuit against Whitby regional councillor Marcel Brunelle has been

dropped. During Monday night's council meeting, Coun. Brunelle announced the ordeal was over.

"I'd like to thank Mayor Tom Edwards and council who defended me when I couldn't defend myself."

Pachino Construction of Stouffville, filed the suit in July 1994, claiming Coun. Brunelle had slandered the firm.

The company's general manager would only confirm that the case has been "laid to rest."

Pachino was the low bidder on a \$1.5 million contract with the region to do road and sewer work in Brooklin. During a regional meeting, Coun. Brunelle questioned awarding the company the project because of outstanding claims the firm had on a previous project with the region.

The contract was later awarded to a Queensville company that had come in \$10,000 higher than Pachino on the tender. Durham Regional Police Fraud Squad conducted an investigation, but found no wrongdoing.

"You were doing your job as best you could," Mayor Edwards told his colleague. After the meeting Coun. Brunelle would not speculate on why the case was dropped. "I guess they had no cause," he said, "but I don't want to speculate what their reasons were. I'm just relieved it's over."

He knew that the case would be dropped a while ago, but it hadn't been made official until last week.

The whole process has been a nightmare, he said. "It's tough on my family and during the election you have people saying don't vote for this guy because he has a legal cloud hanging over him."

It doesn't appear that a lawsuit will be filed against Pachino.

"The lawyer and the insurance company have that option, but I don't think they'll do that." While this case is over, councillors are now worried about potential lawsuits over a separate issue. On the issue of disclosure of interest, the province is setting a double standard on protecting politicians, according to Coun. Brunelle.

"This could happen to anyone," he said. He says provisions in Bill 163 pertaining to disclosure of interest are more strict than the same regulations for MPPs. "If we make what has been deemed an honest mistake, it doesn't matter, we're out," said Coun. Brunelle.

He says the province has taken away that safeguard on inadvertence and given it to MPPs.

Durham Centre MPP Drummond White defended the bill, saying provincial politicians have stricter controls when it comes to disclosing financial records.

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Wonderful Wedding

Wedding styles today can range from very formal to casual, fun events

Your wedding style should reflect your desires and those of your fiancée, and may also be determined by the number of guests and the size of your budget.

There are many alternatives and various combinations of wedding styles that are acceptable today. Formal and semi-formal weddings take place in the daytime or in the

evening. The following are some basic guidelines as to what is standard with each degree of formality.

Very Formal

Usually held in a church, synagogue, temple or hotel. Includes engraved invitations, formal photography, a large and elaborate sit-down dinner or buffet. Generally

includes an orchestra for dancing and floral displays for the tables. May involve the help of a bridal consultant.

The bridal party consists of between four and 13 attendants: a maid or matron of honor, the best man, bridesmaids, one usher for every 50 guest, one or two flower girls and a ringbearer.

Formal

Formal weddings are very popular. Besides being held in a place of worship, they may be held in a home or garden. They include the traditional elements of a bridal gown, attendants, formal invitations, music, floral displays and usually a meal.

Semi-Formal

Location choices for both ceremony and reception may vary and often both are held at the same place. Engraved invitations do not have to include separate response cards. However, you will have more R.S.V.P.s if they are included. Semi-formal weddings usually have

fewer attendants, and the choice of wedding attire and flowers are less traditional and more individual.

Informal

There is a wide range and variety of informal weddings. They can all be made just as special as the most expensive formal wedding, as long as they are kept in good taste. Many informal weddings are second marriages, and often take place in the daytime.

Appropriate wedding attire might be a street- or ankle-length dress, or a suit in white or pastel. The invitations may be as informal as a handwritten note. The site for the ceremony may be a private home or garden, with flowers and decorations being optional.

The refreshments may consist of champagne, punch and cake, or cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

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