



Lawsuit may gain cash lost to fraud

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

The Town of Newmarket is considering launching a civil lawsuit to recoup hundreds of thousands of dollars it lost in an elaborate fraud devised by disgraced recreation director Bill Andrews and an unnamed accomplice.

"The council position is that it wants to take whatever action is necessary to recover the loss sustained by the town," said town solicitor Sue Plamondon, adding staff are working with the municipality's insurance companies to determine whether any further legal action will be taken.

Andrews, 49, received a two-year conditional sentence last month after pleading guilty to a charge of fraud over \$5,000.

He admitted stealing money from the town to feed his gambling addiction.

Court was told Andrews and a co-conspirator set up eight phoney companies that overbilled the town for work not done or only partially completed, swindling \$502,000 since 1995. They each received about \$150,000.

In addition to the conditional sentence, which includes one year of house arrest, strict curfews for the following year and 18 months of probation, Andrews was ordered to repay the town \$150,000.

According to Plamondon, Andrews complied with an order to repay \$125,000 by last Wednesday.

He still owes the remaining \$25,000. Plamondon said town lawyers and the insurance companies are combing through police and court documents to determine whether Andrews should be held accountable for a greater portion of the total theft.

"We have to satisfy ourselves as to the exact amount we believe Mr. Andrews to be responsible for," she said.

Plamondon couldn't say whether investigators will recommend taking legal action against Andrews' accomplice, arguing they aren't able to determine culpability yet.

"We're still evaluating who the responsible parties may be," she said.

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