

What if Internet mob names stuck on our politicians?

# 'The Enforcer, Two Fists and The Quill' would run region

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In the underground world of York Region council, there remains one boss and one boss only — Bill "The Toweler" Fisch.

Known in the public eye as the regional chairperson guiding a financial operating budget in excess of \$820 million this year, the Don is abetted by his trusted sidekick and chief administrative officer, Alan "The Funny Moustache" Wells.

Voted to the prestigious post more than three years ago following the retirement of long-standing chairperson Eldred "The Yodeler" King, Fisch received a second mandate from his inner circle of family members just last fall.

December's uncontested election at the lavish Newmarket-based regional headquarters ensures "The Toweler" will become a distinguished veteran of the regional family.

Meanwhile, Fisch is often pictured huddling with three veteran mayors representing southern York Region — Bill "Two Fists" Bell, Lorna "The Enforcer" Jackson and Don "The Butcher" Cousens.

Fictional nicknames, all of them. The humorous handles are created through the latest Internet invention — a Mob Name



**'THE BUTCHER':** Markham Mayor Don Cousens' handle given to him by Internet site.

Generator — helping to promote the hit television series *The Sopranos*.

Located at [www.dvd.com/stories/play/sopranos](http://www.dvd.com/stories/play/sopranos), the generator will award individuals with a mob nickname similar to those used in *The Sopranos*, a cable series detailing the highlights and lowlifes of a New Jersey Mafia family.

"We invite you to get in touch with your inner Gangster," promotes the website, which is actually a forum to discuss new DVD releases.

"Give us your first and last name and the Mob Generator will give you your mob nickname."

Joining the regional group around "The Toweler's" board table are other municipal mayors, including Aurora's Tim "Weed Whacker" Jones, Wayne "The Umpire" Emmerson in Whitchurch-Stouffville, King Township's Margaret "The Grown Up" Black and Tom "The Island" Taylor in Newmarket.

Taylor, of course, was on an island all to himself during last November's municipal election, the lone York Region mayor with no competition and acclaimed to his position.

Family newcomers include Jeff "The Quill" Holec representing Georgina and East Gwillimbury's Jamie "The Coin Operator" Young, the youngest member within the organization.

"I can't say I ever had any idea to compare regional council with the Mafia or the underworld," admits Fisch, who was unaware of the Web site but was intrigued by his crime name and those of many of his regional colleagues.

"I already know people have nicknames for many of us but I'm not sure if any of them would want to be heard in public. The Toweler



**'THE UMPIRE':** Mob Generator handle hung on Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

seems like a pretty odd name to have.

"I actually wish I had a better one," he joked.

Nicknames, of course, are synonymous in the underworld, where mobsters are granted names to help explain how they eliminate their enemies and clean up problems.

In *The Sopranos*, mob names include Albert "Ally Boy" Barese, Corrado "Junior" Soprano and Salvatore "Big Pussy" Bonpensiero.

York Region's municipal politicians often have the hate on for

their provincial counterparts, including Mike "Cedar Teeth" Harris, Frank "Childlike Complexion" Klees, Dave "The Mortician" Tsubouchi and Al "Twinkle Toes" Palladini.

Palladini's nickname drips with irony considering the Vaughan-King-Aurora MPP's resignation from cabinet last week, explaining he needs time to sort out affairs in his private life, including a messy divorce. The provincial leaders are often locking horns with the federal government, where the likes of Bryon "The Tiger" Wilfert, Karen "Twenty Eyes" Kraft Sloan and Maurizio "The Self-Toucher" Bevilacqua reside.

Meanwhile, underworld personalities often mingle with celebrities, such as Thornhill singer Anne "The Clam" Murray, Toronto Maple Leaf goalie and Keswick native Curtis "Six Toes" Joseph and Richmond Hill skater Elvis "Pipsqueak" Stojko.

And if *The Sopranos* are not your bag, you can jump from [dvd.com](http://dvd.com) to an associated link and browse the Bond Girl Name Generator, where you can find out what type of Bond girl is just dying to get out from your inner self.

In that scenario, "The Toweler" becomes Bill "Mucho Derriere" Fisch.

## Teacher admits he was 'too close with my students'

From page 1

trips and when he took them out to dinner in the Markham area.

"I believe my involvement with music led to my making misjudgments," he told the panel, sobbing. "I became too involved with my students. I had a need to be their friend rather than their teacher. I don't condone it. I was just getting too close."

In September, Walker, 52, failed to show up for classes at Stouffville Secondary, where he was the head of music. The school scrambled for a replacement and was forced to use supply teachers in the first weeks of the year. Walker wrote a letter of resignation to the college dated Oct. 27, 2000.

If Walker had not already resigned his teaching certificate it would have been revoked yesterday, Malowney said. He was fined \$2,000 and had to promise he would never teach in any jurisdiction again.

"I'm a shell of the person I used to be," the emotional Walker told the panel. "I've lost any shred of self-confidence I had. I'm embarrassed and ashamed and I'll always carry this guilt with me the rest of

my life. My wife has not held my hand in years."

Walker spent 22 of his 28 years as a teacher in five different York Region schools. He was the head of the music program at Markham District High School between 1979 and 1987, taught music at Stouffville between 1987 and 1989 and worked as the head of music at Vaughan Secondary School, Milliken Mills High School and King City Secondary School before returning to SDSS in 1995.

He won numerous awards and band competitions, including an Excellence in Education from the board in 1983. He staffed leadership programs, coached hockey and basketball and took students on more than 30 band tours around the world. He was also the director of the Markham Concert Band for 10 years and currently directs the Men of Note choir in Stouffville.

Walker apologized to the profession, his family and his victim, who is now a married mother of four and a music teacher herself.

She only recently filed an abuse complaint against Walker with the college after hearing about an ad Walker had placed looking for young actresses.



**DOUG WALKER:** The former music teacher at schools in Markham and Stouffville was fined and promised never to teach again on Tuesday.

"(When I) realized he might still be doing it, I felt physically ill," she wrote in her victim impact statement, tendered as an exhibit at the hearing. "As a mother, I shudder at the callousness of a system that would pass this man from school to school."

Ontario College of Teachers media relations officer Denis Giguere said while other leads were explored by college investigators, no other charges were brought

before the disciplinary panel.

"The investigators did hear additional names and we got in touch with them, but we could not find enough evidence," he said.

Walker was never criminally charged.

His victim wrote her first marriage, to a man "similar in stature and age as Mr. Walker," failed within two years. The abuse destroyed her high school friendships, the relationship with her brother and left her with a deep sorrow at the loss of her youth, innocence and trust. She said she still lives in fear of her mother finding out.

"In high school, Doug Walker's actions led me towards adulthood before I had even experienced adolescence. As a result of his decision to seduce me, I never had a boyfriend in high school. Our circle of secrecy led me to abuse alcohol with him. I made too many misguided decisions from an alcoholic haze. I went to school functions alone. I went to my graduation party alone. I gave him my virginity and he didn't believe me."

"As a teacher, I fully comprehend the power we hold over students. I now understand why we, as a union of professionals, must be vigilant so

that predators like Doug Walker can not scar our children," she writes. "...you would think I could get over this. It happened over 20 years ago. I can't and I don't know if I ever will."

York Region District School Board spokesperson Lucia Cascioli said anyone hired by the board today must undergo a criminal background check. Complaints about teachers are investigated by senior staff — a principal and the area superintendent — and the College must be notified of any allegations against teachers.

"The board's number one priority is the health and safety of the students," she said.

"Supervisory officers are trained in how to deal with these situations. If a teacher thinks there's something going on with a student or a colleague, they would alert the principal."

But she could not say if anything had changed as a result of this case. Cascioli also couldn't say what the process might be if no official complaint is received by the board, except to add all teachers are obliged under the Children's Aid Society child abuse protocol to report suspicions of any form of abuse against children.

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