

Ex-CAO denies having interest in company

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Many have filed statements of defense denying the allegations.

The Ontario Provincial Police is probing the deals but has not laid any criminal charges.

Among the new defendants is Mr. Dewing, now CEO for the Township of Cramahe in Colborne, near Cobourg.

The claim for \$21 million linked to the Bowmanville sale is by far the biggest claim for damages on any of the deals.

One owner of St. Stephen's Estates is Frank Gabriele, another key defendant in the lawsuit. Mr. Gabriele's companies won several ORC contracts by participating in bid-rigging schemes that Oshawa-based Sirman

Associates and consultant Ivan Sirman masterminded, according to the lawsuit.

In an interview with the Toronto Star, Mr. Dewing said he had already sold his interest in the firm at the time of the contract and had no knowledge of any bid-rigging.

The lawsuit outlines more than three dozen alleged bid-rigging schemes and the use of dummy companies for ORC

environmental cleanup contracts involving Sirman and his firms.

The lawsuit alleges that Mr. Dewing had an interest in a Sirman company linked to the Bowmanville land deal.

In an interview with the Toronto Star, Mr. Dewing said he had already sold his interest in the firm at the time of the contract and had no knowledge of any bid-rigging.

The Stouffville Tribune was unable to reach Mr. Dewing for comment on Friday.

Mr. Dewing was fired by Whitchurch-Stouffville council four years ago. He was hired as CEO in Port Colborne in Niagara Region and was dismissed from that position three months later.

- with files from TorStar Network



MERLIN DEWING: Now CAO in community near Cobourg.

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