

Man charges councillor got 'preference'

By MARK SMYKA
Times Staff Writer

A Bolton businessman stunned Peel council last week with charges that its public works department has shown Caledon Councillor Emile Kolb "preferential treatment" and saved the councillor thousands of dollars by letting him hire his own contractor to hook into the region's water system.

Donald Sheardown, who owns a small tire business in Bolton Industrial Park, alleged in a written report to council that the public works commissioner, Bill Anderson, gave Kolb "special consideration" because Kolb is "an elected official, well known to the region," and in so doing allowed Kolb to hire his own contractor to hook into the region's water system at a saving "of approximately \$6,000."

Sheardown alleged that when he asked Anderson why Kolb was allowed to hire his own contractor, when it is the region's policy that only its own contractors and materials can be used in such works, the commissioner replied: "Councillor Kolb was given preferential treatment because he was known to me."

At the council meeting, Anderson did not deny making the statement, but did say that his department "had erred" in allowing Kolb to hire a contractor. He said the arrangement made between Kolb and the region "was not Mr. Kolb's doing. It was an error on the part of public works."

Kolb told council he had paid a \$520 deposit for the work "before there was a shovel put in the ground," and that he had paid the contractor directly so he'd get his money sooner than if it were paid through the region.

"I don't see how anybody could say I got privileges from the region of Peel," said Kolb.

With Peel Chairman Lou Parsons asking council and the audience to refrain from gasping during Sheardown's presentation, council demanded an immediate investigation into the matter.

It asked the public works department to report as soon as possible on further charges by Sheardown that the region's policy of charging for hook-ups to the water and sewer system is "unfair, inequitable and

extraordinarily punitive to people like myself."

Mississauga Councillor Frank Leavers said he was "flabbergasted" by Sheardown's charges and Brampton Councillor Terry Miller said there were "matters of conduct that we should look into."

In addition to public works, the matter will be investigated by the region's administration and finance committee, the regional solicitor and the chief administrative officer.

Sheardown's complaint stems from water and sewer hook-up costs to service his business in Bolton. Public works estimates show it will cost about \$8,000 — \$4,500 for sewer and \$3,500 for water.

Sheardown said he was told by the region that he could not use his own contractor or buy his own materials. He claimed that a "reputable contractor often used by the municipality" could do the work for \$2,730.

He said that when he finally persuaded the region to let him engage his own contractor to hook-up the water facilities (the contractor still had to be paid through the region), the estimate fell from \$3,500 by the region to \$1,743 by the contractor. Yet, because the region was handling the billing, Sheardown found the final price still too high.

"When I requested a copy of the contractor's invoice, I was informed that the region does not pay the contractor by his own invoice. In fact, as far as I can tell, the region receives no billings from the contractor, but issues a cheque on the basis of a calculation of the cost by regional staff. Being in business in the private sector, I cannot believe a system like this could possibly exist," said Sheardown.

He also objected vehemently to the way administrative, engineering and inspection costs are added on to the billings.

"The system also encourages regional staff to create the highest possible billings in order to achieve the highest possible fees to support the department's expenses. In effect," said Sheardown, "as guardian of my money, you sponsor and support a system that is unfair, inequitable and extraordinarily punitive to people like myself."



KEN KERR/THE TIMES

Set to roll

The Outreach Walkathon, sponsored by many churches in Mississauga, was held over the weekend. Starting point for the 20-kilometre walk was the Terra Cotta Conservation Area.

Among those taking part in the event were Maureen Sexton and Frank Walker of Cheshire House, a home for handicapped adults in Streetsville.

Some of the money raised by walkathon will go toward Cheshire House, as well as other community groups and projects.

Firm rehires teen girl after firing for diabetes

By CONNIE RAE
Times Staff Writer

A Mississauga teenager, who came home in tears last week after being fired "because she was a diabetic," has been reinstated by the company at a different location.

The move follows talks with management, and because of the reinstatement she does not wish to reveal her name or the company's name.

The situation, however, brings to light the fact there is no legislation to protect diabetics from this type of thing.

The incident arose after the girl suffered blisters on her feet in her new job, which required a lot of standing.

After phoning in to say she had to take a few hours off to have her sores treated at the hospital before complications set in, the girl was fired.

Her mother was furious. "When young people have the ambition to work, to be penalized for an ailment that is not her fault is just too much," she says. "My daughter is most upset."

"However, they've rectified the situation and the management was very nice about it and everybody's happy again," she adds.

Mike Simon, an officer for the Ontario Human Rights Commission in Toronto, says the only power the commission has in these situations is "moral persuasion."

Legislation to prevent such abuses

is being drafted, he says.

A commission recommendation urges that no person should be discriminated against because of any physical disturbance.

"Physical disturbance" is defined as a "determinable medical characteristic of a disease suffered by an individual (including the history of such a medical characteristic) which may result from the disease, injury, congenital condition of birth or functional disorder which is unrelated to the individual's ability to perform duties of a particular job or employment."

Simon says a commission brief was presented to the legislature in July of last year and has gone to cabinet.

If passed, the provision would protect those afflicted with such diseases as diabetes, epilepsy or multiple sclerosis.

It would give these people protection against job discrimination and allow them to work in areas where their affliction would not stand in the way of a particular job, Simon says.

"We have had a number of complaints of this nature on an informal basis and as yet we have no power to protect their rights," Simon says.

THE LAW

Indecent acts

Four men have pleaded guilty in connection with indecent acts this summer in the washrooms of Rockwood Mall.

James Albert Kerr, 26, of Mississauga and John Anthony Skuilis, 28, of Toronto pleaded guilty to gross indecency and to committing an indecent act and received a conditional discharge and probation for nine months. Neither had previous offences.

Raymond Milburn, 59, and Carl D. Henry, both of Toronto also pleaded guilty to gross indecency and committing an indecent act. Milburn received a conditional discharge,

and Henry was fined \$450.

Peter Leslie Barrington, 34, of Mississauga and Tony Zagorc, 46, of Toronto, have pleaded not guilty to charges of gross indecency and their cases come up in February.

Police say no further incidents have occurred at the mall.

Teenager charged

A youth, wearing only a shirt, socks and underwear, was arrested by Peel police Saturday night outside a Bloor Street apartment.

Wayne Sidney King, 17, of 3401 Pony Trail Dr. has been charged with attempted break and enter and trespassing by night.

Jail terms for vandals follow winning news tip

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"They'll think twice before they do it again."

That was the comment of Merriday Blanchard after Carmen Montaglini, 17, and Antonio Lucca, 18, were sentenced to 30 days in jail for vandalism.

The two, who will serve the sentence on weekends, were also ordered to pay restitution costs of \$800. Montaglini was on probation at the time of the offense, and Lucca out on bail on another vandalism charge.

Merriday is the wife of Tom Blanchard of Lewisham Drive. He is running for council and won The Times' News Tip of the Week contest with his complaint about vandalism in the Sheridan Creek area, south of Truscott Drive.

The picture window in Blanchard's house was smashed by vandals, who apparently were upset about him calling the paper.

The judge imposed the strict sentence because the throwing of

rocks and a liquor bottle through the window was a deliberate and malicious attack on a citizen who had "every right to complain."

Roger William Wing, 16, also pleaded guilty to a vandalism charge and will be sentenced Oct. 19.

Two men, Ronald Francouer and Steven Kelly Hurst, both 18, have been charged in connection with the incident and go on trial Jan. 25.

"Nobody has the right to go around disturbing people," Blanchard said.

"It's time the courts made people responsible for their actions."

"Vandalism costs the Mississauga taxpayer a million and a half dollars a year.

"Why not make kids or their parents responsible instead? If the courts were stricter and the offenders had to pay up, there'd be fewer offences."

"Kids still hang around a lot, but let me tell you, it's a real pleasure to sit in your back yard without being subjected to loud and obscene language."