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Halton Region's CAO Brent Marshall - credentials - TOP SECRET?

Posted on Friday, June 16 @ 10:47:16 EDT by [editor](#)

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May 28, 2006

Halton Region: Joyce Savoline recently boasted in a number of paid newspaper articles that Brent Marshall was the man who "conceived" the, what taxpayers have now termed, Brent's - '[Taj MaHalton](#)'.

The '[Taj MaHalton](#)' is, according to the paid articles, Brent's vision to bring Halton's four bureaucracies under the facility care and management control of the Region, in what the Region has termed, a campus. The plan is to tear down our present Regional facility and rebuild it to accommodate and bring together Halton Region, the Halton Regional Police Service, the Halton District School Board and the Halton Catholic District School Board under one roof. The Chairman [stated in an article](#) that there are also aspirations to bring Halton's Provincial Courts system, currently located in three municipalities, together to serve to the various communities in one facility, under the same roof as our Police Services Department.

The Halton Herald filled a "Freedom of Information" application with the Region not only to see what qualifies Mr. Marshall to plan such a monumental construction initiative at an equally enormous burden to taxpayers, but also as a follow-up to the HRPS Kingston story, where we learned Deputy Chief Kingston had 'padded' his resume.

We asked the Region to forward us copies of Mr. Marshall's education credentials and/or vocational training that helped qualify him to serve in the capacity of which he now serves ratepayers of Halton. We received a letter indicating it was a letterhead from the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, stating; "We have decided to grant you partial access to the file you requested", the letter went on to state; "Access to the rest of the information is being denied". The Regional Clerk went on to cite; "the records would cause an unjustified invasion of personal privacy".

Strangely enough what we did receive was a copy of a Halton Region Media Release announcing Mr. Marshall's appointment as Halton Region's CAO, that had content portions of that document, which was released to the public on October 28, 1998, blackened out. The only item we received that concerned his education or vocation training to support his present position of CAO, was an internal Public Works Report that stated; A. Brent Marshall had successfully completed a "T.J. Mahony Road School" course" in 1984, of which the scope of the course content covered - roadway maintenance and operation functions

Feeling certain that Mr. Marshall wouldn't have any problem disclosing his education or vocational background to the ratepayers of Halton Region, we decided to contact Mr. Marshall directly, asking him the following;

"As a follow-up to the Deputy Chief Kingston's 'story', we're doing an investigative report for our paper and are hoping you would elaborate as to why your education credentials are being treated as 'TOP SECRET' in your administration's reply to a recent Herald FOI request? Surely you would agree, a senior public executive's credentials should be available for public critique, and if not, a reasonable explanation should follow?"

So far from the information forwarded in response to our FOI, all I've been able to determine is that you received a "T.J. Mahony Certificate" qualifying you to fix the potholes in my street. Certainly you can appreciate any reservations some may develop when

we read in our competitors' newsprints, politician's articles endorsing your ergonomic conceptual design aspirations involving hundreds upon hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars to bring four bureaucracies under your administration's care and management control in one facility.

If possible, would you mind also including in your reply, how many rival qualified applicants did you exceed for the position of CAO of Halton?

Also, we noticed a portion of a public Media Press Release generated by Halton administrators', announcing your appointment dated; Oct. 28, 1998 had portions of its contents blacked out. Care to elaborate as to why or what was originally released to the public in that media release document, that is now, for whatever reason, being concealed from the Herald?

It's not our intention to create any animosities between yourself and the Herald, so if you feel there's been some miscommunication that could easily be sorted out, please advise."

Mr. Marshall has, to date, failed to respond.