



NORTH HALTON'S ONLY TRULY INDEPENDENT DAILY MULTIMEDIA NEWSGROUP

Reclaiming our community, one story at a time.

[HERALD ARCHIVES](#)

[COMMUNITY CALENDAR](#)

[LINKS](#)

[SEARCH](#)

Another report of government news media intervention from the Town of Halton Hill

Posted on Tuesday, September 12 @ 22:57:38 EDT by [editor](#)

Freelance Journalist and Editor



Gloria Hildebrandt

Sept. 12, 2006

Halton Hills: At a July 17, 2006 taping of the [Behind the Story](#) television show, which, amongst other topics, discussed the government interference of media reports, Gloria Hildebrandt revealed to the show's host, Richard Landau and program viewers that she too had been a victim of a litigious government sponsored interference campaign and was forced to retract a controversial [news report](#) which was published in the newspaper formerly known as; [The North Halton Compass](#).

The show featured addendum guest, Al Kirouac of The Halton Herald, who was also a victim of a Town of Halton Hills [media control campaign](#) to litigiously control what was printed in the Herald.

During the show, Gloria revealed how she would have loved to have had her day in court so she could have defended her story, but the Town targeted her publisher. The publisher responded, who she noted; had "shallow pockets", so the matter was out of her hands. Gloria later told the Herald, the paper executed their option to retract and apologised on behalf of all named parties, at which point the Town's litigious action was dropped.

This, along with other media control issues raised by the Herald -- as well as the taxpayer-funded civil proceeding launched against the Herald by The Town of Halton Hills, sets a pattern. The Herald had [previously raised contentions](#) about how the news Medias in Halton Hills [have been controlled by the local government](#) of the Municipality of The Town of Halton Hills.

Gloria never had the opportunity to defend her story but The Herald took the matter to court, where Ontario Supreme Court Justice J. Corbett [ruled](#);

"Governments are accountable to the people through the ballot box, and not to judges and juries in courts of law. When government is criticized, its recourse is in the public domain, not the courts. The government may not imprison, or fine, or sue, those who criticize it. The government may respond. This is fundamental. **Litigation is a form of force, and the government must not silence its critics by force.**"



Mayor, Rick Bonnette.

FOI's revealed the Mayor of The Town of Halton Hills, Rick Bonnette, was one of the primaries who initiated the court action which wasted an undisclosed amount of taxpayers' money in the Town's attempt to control what was being published in the Herald. Only government administrators can tell us who, or even why the our local level of government forced a retraction over reporter Gloria Hildebrandt's news story on a controversial land swap deal, involving numerous councillors who had friends, family and campaign supporters which created a number of conflicts of interest and a CAO who signed a non-disclosure confidentiality agreement and given a substantial amount of taxpayers cash upon his resignation.

A police investigation later ensued, involving The Halton Regional Police Services and the Anti-Rackets Bureau of The Ontario Provincial Police, but charges were never brought, police stated; due to lack of evidence.

view video stream of the -- Behind the Story segment.