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Would you call a trade association's - apprentice program - a college?

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Halton Hills - Milton: Well, incase you didn't catch the story or read between its lines, it might surprise you to know that in the November 23, 2006 issue of the Halton Compass, Stuart Service wrote an article with a headline that read; "[Bonnette seeks college in Halton Hills](#)", when in fact it's more accurately called; expanding an established corporation's - trade apprenticeship program.

In that article, Bonnette also identified one of his political aspirations as - an agenda to have (Halton Hills) council to look at making some sort of "*investment*" in a community college. Bonnette stated; "*We do have a college that's very keen on coming to Halton Hills.*" and went on to add; "*the interested college already owns lands and holds a post-secondary program in Halton Hills*", but for some reason - declined to identify or disclose the secrecy behind which college he was referring to, although he did insinuate - in an underlying message what can only be construed as a possible added cost to taxpayers - when he stated; "*its something council might want to consider.*"

Why would council have to consider anything that has to do with a "*college*" moving to Halton Hills, unless of course, as one might expect, the college was looking for some sort of an incentive or a taxpayer subsidization of some-sort?

What Stuart did outline in his newspaper report, was that Mayor Bonnette and Tony DiGiovannin (executive director and spokesperson for Landscape Ontario) who, with Bonnette is also an alumni member and colleague "*professor*" of Humber College, were in current negotiations - pitching ideas for the association's (Landscape Ontario) "*master plan*".

The "*master plan*", the paper noted; "*is a full-time school where landscapers would build gardens around the Landscape Ontario property*".

Landscape Ontario is a registered corporation which functions as a landscape trade association. Landscape Ontario's supporting members consist of landscape contractors and garden centres throughout Ontario. The association also publishes a trade magazine called - Landscape Trades.

Bonnette stated in the newspaper article; "We'd like to expand on that (apprentice) program and make it a lot more significant".

DiGiovanni's "*master plan*" is essentially a plan to expand the trade association's established apprenticeship program at an estimated cost of \$20 million dollars. The association's current program is hosted on their property located at 7856 Fifth Line South, RR4, Milton, ON. According to the newspaper article, the trade association already hosts a trade "*apprenticeship program*" in association with Humber College, providing graduating students a landscape apprenticeship program which supports about 25 landscape apprentices a year.

Bonnette first began the rumours of a Halton Hills "*college boutique*" or "*campus*" back when it was reported - he was the driving force behind the Halton Hills Industrial Gateway master plan that saw the allocation of 7.5 million taxpayers' dollars to develop private property in the Halton Hills industrial corridor. Shortly thereafter, he raised hopes of a campus plan or "*boutique*" that could be used to train Mold-Master's employees. Mold-Masters has since postponed their plans to relocate in the corridor. Now Bonnette's pitching plans to colleges and council while trying to sell his constituents on a college campus story through willing papers in what appears to be, nothing more than a trade association's plan to expand its trade apprenticeship program - under the guise of some-sort of "*college campus*".

To date, the all encompassing details surrounding Bonnette's "*college campus*" plan, are being kept secret or contained in a limited circle of a select few associates. What is apparent though, is this college wave that Bonnette keeps jumping or riding on is, at least on the surface, nothing more than hype to help a fellow Humber college alumni member and colleague, expand Mr. DiGiovanni's Milton addressed trade association's enterprise/operations.

In the same article, Bonnette was referred to as a "*former professor*" of Humber College. We shared the surprise of many when we were told Bonnette, an alumni member of Humber's Tourism and Travel curriculum who, after graduating with his Humber diploma joined Humber's faculty to teach travel and tourism part-time, would be referred to - as a "*professor*". Who would have even thought there was an academic accreditation for travel and tourism?

So to qualify any such academic/accreditation assertions, we wrote Mayor Bonnette and asked him where he got his Bachelor or Associate degree that qualifies him as a 'professor of travel and tourism', but didn't get a response. So we did a search to see if there were any accredited Canadian college or university programs that hosted a recognized degree program in travel and tourism, but were not surprised when we didn't find any. But what is apparent, is if you graduate from a Humber College program - that qualifies you as a "Professor".

Inside The Herald - Would you call a trade association's - apprentice program - a college?

In the meantime, put your hands in your pockets and hide your cheque books because the mayor and one of his associates are pitching ideas while the mayor's associate looks for \$20 million to expand - corporate operations.