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Why didn't Cynthia Gamble report all the inconsistencies in council's ...

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[Why didn't Cynthia Gamble report all the inconsistencies in council's conflicts of interest?](#)

August 27, 2006

Halton - Halton Hills: Cynthia Gamble, 'Staff Writer' for the [Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press](#) wrote a column reporting on the abundant conflicts of interest our Town of Halton Hills Councillors have had over the years, called; "[Councillors declared several conflicts of interest during term](#)".

What conflicts were noticeably absent in Cynthia's report, which certainly could be indicative of her or her editor's own conflicts of interest, was Councillor Mike O'Leary's undeclared conflict. Councillor O'Leary's writing services are employed by Acton's – The New Tanner. But the councillor failed to declare a conflict of interest when [he and his colleagues voted to control the media](#), an issue that benefited his and Cynthia's employer. Similarly, Cynthia didn't mention Mayor Bonnette's discriminating practice of publishing his weekly column in select Halton Hills newsprints or his subsequent conflict of interest that resulted when Mayor Bonnette [voted on the Media release practices of the Town](#), which of course, also benefited Cynthia's and Councillor O'Leary's employer.

The Town of Halton Hills is a consistent major advertising client for our local newspapers, leaving many to wonder; is that perhaps why they apparently neglected to promptly inform their readership of the Halton Region Police Services or the subsequent OPP Anti-Rackets Bureau investigations as they developed? The year long investigations encompassed a controversial land-swap deal involving council members with conflicts of interest and their campaign contributing beneficiaries, which wasn't reported in our community's newspapers as NEWS until council members were cleared, "due to lack of evidence".

Perhaps while reading Cynthia's so-called "independent" news story, our community's news reporters and their editors took the time to consider their own conflicts of interest while reporting what the mainstream national media considers; breaking NEWS stories. Because when local newsprint publishers concern themselves more -- in not biting the hands that feed them, their publications amount to -nothing-more than advertising spam for our mailboxes and municipal recycling centres.