

Mississauga News

What did they expect?

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Page: 1

Section: Editorial

It's a classic case of "Be careful what you wish for!"

It was outspoken Ward 7 Councillor Nando Iannicca and the other members of the so-called 'Group of Seven' who pushed so hard for the hiring of an integrity commissioner; that was when it was Mayor Hazel McCallion's integrity that was said to be in question.

Now that the shoe is on the other foot, the surviving members of the rebel faction on City Council - particularly the volatile Iannicca - don't appear to be so fond of the idea.

New integrity commissioner **George Rust-D'Eye** received a request last week from Ward 9 Councillor Pat Saito, asking if the leak of an internal memo to the media violated the City's code of conduct. An as-yet-unknown whistle-blower let it be known that councillors had each been offered a pair of free tickets (worth \$700) to attend McCallion's private birthday bash.

There was an angry backlash from enraged residents and the councillors did what all politicians do when they've been caught with their hand in the proverbial cookie jar - they blamed the media.

It was the height of hypocrisy that Iannicca suggested in sanctimonious fashion that the integrity commissioner has no right or authority to question him.

The mayor was correct to suggest Iannicca should have made his reservations known during discussions surrounding hiring the integrity commissioner in the first place.

We'll all be the better for it when our city councillors realize there is nothing special about them. The same rules apply to everyone, including - no, especially - them.

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