

Gyles big spender in 2001 election

By JOHN STEWART
Staff

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Ward 5 Councillor Cliff Gyles raised and spent more money than any other candidate in last November's municipal election.

Gyles, who was re-elected, raised \$68,000 primarily from developers, almost \$20,000 more than any other candidate.



GYLES

Frank Dale was the second-most successful fundraiser. He received \$49,500 in donations in his successful bid to retain his Ward 4 seat.

Gyles currently faces charges of municipal corruption stemming from allegations that he accepted funds from a developer in return for his support of a project in his ward. He made a court appearance yesterday on those charges. The case was held over to another date.

Gyles spent some \$61,500 to win a second term on council. The spending limit for his ward was \$25,477, a limit which Gyles came within \$103 of exceeding.

Campaigning politicians are allowed

to write off certain expenses which do not count against their spending cap, such as the costs of fundraising, victory parties and hiring campaign staff. Gyles spent \$18,600 in salaries and professional fees.

Returns filed with the City Clerk, as required by The Municipal Elections Act, indicate developers, engineering firms, planning consultants, legal firms and others who interact regularly with City Hall were prime contributors to councillors' campaigns.

Some candidates who challenged incumbents, such as Bill Munden in Ward 7, Eric Wen in Ward 6 and Jerry Golec in Ward 3, self-financed most of their campaigns.

Developers accounted for the bulk of the donations made to incumbents.

Although Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman spent more than \$800,000 in a campaign in which he had no significant opponent, Mayor Hazel McCallion neither collected nor spent a penny.

"No contributions received and no expenses," was the sole comment written on the mayor's expense return.

The mayor's three fringe opponents spent little more than she did. One mayoralty candidate, Kanwaljit Singh Kanwal, is among the 16 candidates who missed the March 31 expense filing deadline.

Candidates who fail to file are banned from running in the next municipal election. Only those who received or spent more than \$10,000 are obliged to file.

Trustee candidates for local school

boards, who earn only \$5,000 if they are elected, generally run frugal campaigns, but must still file a form saying they spent no more than \$10,000.

In Ward 4, Dale raised \$49,500 for a campaign which had a limit of \$22,000.

He has a surplus of \$16,500 to carry into the next campaign.

Ward 1 Councillor Carmen Corbasson, who was acclaimed to office, raised \$18,700 and spent \$19,300, most of that spent in anticipation of a campaign. A

declared opponent switched from Corbasson's ward to another just before nominations closed.

The winner of the seven-way Ward 6 race, former school trustee George

• See Mayor page A2

Gyles urged to resign

By JOHN STEWART
Staff

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It was another bad day at the office for Ward 5 Councillor Cliff Gyles yesterday.

After being questioned about everything from his real name (Linton Cliff Gyles) to where he lives (Western Skies Way), Gyles was asked to resign.

Two members of the public appeared at City Council to present what they called "newer allegations" about Gyles' conduct as a councillor.

Mayor Hazel McCallion, however, dismissed the pair, saying serious

allegations should be reported to Peel Regional Police or to the City Clerk, not to local politicians.

Gyles faces charges, laid by Peel Regional Police Feb. 19, of municipal corruption, breach of trust and frauds against the government.

Roy Willis, who lost to Gyles in a seven-way race for the Ward 5 seat last November, called on the councillor to resign his post voluntarily.

"I'm asking you Mr. Gyles...to remove the cloud from everybody in this City," Willis said. "Step down, sir, until your name is cleared."

Gyles did not respond to Willis' request.

Willis also said he would be ask-

ing City Clerk Arthur Grannum to audit Gyles' election finances return, which indicated the councillor raised \$68,000 for a campaign in which the spending limit in his ward was \$25,500.

Willis told *The News* earlier he is suspicious of some of the figures listed in the return, especially the expenditures which were excluded from the spending limit, such as \$7,100 in fundraising expenses, \$18,600 in staff salaries and \$6,300 in accounting and auditing fees.

After the meeting, City Clerk Grannum said Willis must make a written request for an audit within

• See Councillor page 7