

Lawyer challenges tape

By LOUIE ROSELLA
Staff

The lawyer for Councillor Cliff Gyles says the voice heard on a tape accepting a \$10,000 bribe is not his client.

In Brampton court yesterday, Alan Gold refuted evidence given more than a week ago by businessman Malkit Dhaliwal that he taped Gyles during a meeting set-up to pay the bribe.

On the tape, presented in the courtroom as evidence, Dhaliwal could be heard counting money. "One, two, three (up to 10)...exactly 10,000." He then asked, "Do you want to count them or no?"

A voice he identified as Gyles replied: "That's good enough."

However yesterday, in his cross-examination of Dhaliwal, Gold said his client denies it is his voice.

"Nobody heard this tape before you went to police," said Gold, adding it was



GOLD

bribe, court heard.

But Dhaliwal testified there were always crowds around the two of them and "if I had Gyles alone, I would have asked him about this."

Gold told the court yesterday that in Dhaliwal's case, "(Police) can't seem to gather any incriminating evidence against Gyles."

Gyles is on trial

Dhaliwal wanted to run his trucking

a tape that Dhaliwal produced.

When Dhaliwal went to police in October 2001 — more than 18 months after the supposed payoff — police equipped him with a wire tap device and encouraged him to speak with Gyles about the

business from property he purchased on Bramalea Rd., but needed to have the property rezoned since it was then zoned for agriculture.

The rezoning still has yet to be approved due to environmental issues, but Dhaliwal continues to run his company — New Way Truck Driving School — from that property, being convicted of at least two bylaw offences in the process, court heard.

Gold suggested Dhaliwal went to police with his own motives.

"Your land rezoning is not going forward...(you're) in financial trouble," Gold said in court. "By making this claim to police, it would assist you to get your land rezoned."

Madam Justice Bonnie Wein also heard yesterday that Dhaliwal testified in last year's preliminary inquiry that Roy Willis, a political foe of Gyles, made him go to police with the bribery allegation.

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Gyles, Cliff

Councillor will testify at his trial

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tion.

Dhaliwal agreed with Gold that if it hadn't been for Willis, Dhaliwal would have said "nothing to nobody."

It was revealed in court yesterday when asked in the preliminary inquiry if Dhaliwal had any prior dealings with police, he testified that he didn't.

But Gold noted Dhaliwal was charged with assaulting a woman at his workplace in June of 2000.

Although the charge was withdrawn, Dhaliwal did sign a one-year peace bond promising good behaviour.

"I didn't remember," Dhaliwal said yesterday when asked why he never mentioned the charge.

Gyles, 59, is also charged with accepting a bribe of \$25,000 from funeral home owner Rick Benisasia, in relation to another rezoning application.

Benisasia testified earlier this month that he handed Gyles the money, which was provided to him by police when he informed them of the politician's demand.

Gyles has pleaded not guilty in both incidents.

The defence begins its case today. Gold said yesterday Gyles will be testifying in the trial.