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## Gyles trial marked by bizarre testimony, arguments

Cliff Gyles' municipal corruption trial lasted 13 court days and nearly two months — and was replete with bizarre twists and turns along the way.

These include:

- Malkit Dhaliwal testified Gyles frisked him when they met on one occasion, but failed to find the hidden tape recorder. That same recorder was used as evidence in the trial and, on it, Gyles was heard accepting the money;
- Gyles testified the voice on Dhaliwal's tape was not his, but the next day, said he wasn't sure;
- Gyles testified he accepted \$25,000 from Rick Benisasia with the intention of reporting the crime to police, but then told the crown prosecutor he used \$8,800 of the bribery money to pay his legal fees after he was arrested;
- defense lawyer Alan Gold argued Gyles really never committed breach of trust by accepting bribes from Benisasia because it was police money: It was "play-acting" claimed Gold, an argument rejected by the judge;
- Benisasia testified Gyles frisked him during one of their coffee shop meetings, but never frisked him again, even though he started to wear a police wire; and
- court heard Gyles speaking with the complainants, using code words such as "chickens" and "apples" to refer to the bribe money.

The trial ended with the Mississauga councillor being found guilty on all counts of municipal corruption and breach of trust.