

Grandmaitre wants secret vote for regional chairman

By Donna Balkan
Citizen staff writer

Maintaining that he is still in the running for the regional chairmanship, former Vanier mayor Bernard Grandmaitre has called for a secret ballot when the election is held Wednesday.

The region's deputy-solicitor says a secret vote would not be permitted under the Ontario Municipal Act, but Grandmaitre said he has legal advice to the contrary.

Blasting a recent *Citizen* headline reading *Grandmaitre admits Haydon will win*, Grandmaitre told a news conference Monday that the

headline and accompanying story did not accurately reflect his view that a secret ballot could increase his chances of becoming chairman, and possibly ensure his victory.

He added that his estimate of a 20-to-12 Haydon victory in an open vote, cited in the story, was based on information from other sources, and that he himself had not taken a poll of the 32 regional councillors. "In no way am I admitting defeat," he said.

However, he reiterated his statement that an open vote would "greatly diminish" his chances and said he has legal advice saying

LOCAL

The Citizen, Ottawa, Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1980, Page 3

council could suspend the region's procedures bylaw, which now prohibits closed votes, to allow for a secret ballot.

"Let's go in-camera," he said. "I don't want to know who votes for me or who is against me. It's not a good way to unify this council."

Grandmaitre added that he has lost two votes on council as a result of the article, because those supporters have "lost some confidence" in his candidacy.

Deputy regional solicitor Eric Johnson said that a secret ballot would be contrary to a provision of

the Ontario Municipal Act which specifically requires open votes on matters before municipal and regional councils.

Although council could vote to suspend its own procedures bylaw, Johnson said, such a vote would not get around Section 197 of the Municipal Act.

Grandmaitre countered that council could circumvent the provincial legislation by holding the vote not as council per se, but as a "committee of the whole."

Haydon supporters say such a suspension of the rules would not pass at council.

"There's no way we'll go for it," said Ottawa alderman Don Reid.

"If he's looking for a devious means to sway the vote, I'm very disappointed," said another Haydon supporter, Goulbourn Mayor Betty Hill.

"The rules say it's an open vote and that's the way it has to be."

Even the Grandmaitre supporters aren't united in their candidate's bid for a secret ballot.

"The democratic process is all about taking a public stand on issues," said Ottawa alderman Marlene Catterall, adding that she would oppose a closed vote.



—Russell Mant, Citizen

Ottawa pedestrians battle Monday's rain

Cheer up, light snow and cold on the way

It was nice while it lasted, but today's sunny skies didn't last long. The weather office predicts light snow will start falling tonight and continue into Wednesday morning, bringing cooler temperatures with it.

Temperatures, expected to reach a high today of around -1, will only reach -8 Wednesday, up only a few degrees from the expected overnight low of -12.

The 13.9 mm of rain that fell Monday turned the snow to mush and made getting around town messy for both pedestrians and motorists. With a high of 2, the thin layer of ice that formed on streets and sidewalks melted into pools of water.

The fog and drizzle that paralysed Ottawa International Airport early Monday disrupted schedules for the remainder of the day, but most flights were back to normal by evening.

Earlier, Air Canada flights from Mirabel and Northern Ontario were cancelled, with one-hour delays on flights to Toronto and Vancouver.

CP Air also reported delays of up to four hours on long-haul flights. Ottawa road crews were busy clearing ice from catch basins so pools of water could drain properly from the streets.

Pat O'Brien, superintendent for roads, said there were no serious problems.

Milk price war raging among specialty stores

By Michael Prentice
Citizen staff writer

A milk price battle has broken out among Ottawa specialty food stores, but there is no sign the major supermarkets will join in and make it a war.

Specialty stores are now undercutting the supermarkets by as much as 40 cents on a three-quart bag of homogenized milk.

The lowest price for a three-quart bag found in a *Citizen* survey Monday was \$1.78 at Len's Meat and

Grocery, at 1160 Bank St.

Across the street, at 1091 Bank St., the Haddad Food Market was charging \$1.79.

And, just a few blocks north, the Herb and Spice Shop at 841 Bank St. had milk on sale for \$1.89.

In the major supermarkets, a three-quart bag of homogenized milk now sells for \$2.19. The same size of two-per-cent milk is \$2.15.

A milk price war in Toronto earlier this year cost a lot of large and small retailers money, supermarket and dairy industry officials say.

In some Toronto stores, the price of a three-quart bag dropped as low as \$1.49, well below wholesale cost.

The wholesale price in Ottawa now varies between about \$1.70 and \$1.80 for the three-quart size, depending on sales volume.

"The supermarkets are not going to get into another price war just because a few little stores are selling at close to their cost," said one industry official, who asked not to be identified.

Local dairies won't say exactly what their wholesale prices are. They vary depending on volume, with the supermarkets paying the least because their turnover is greatest.

Social club owner 'lucky to be alive'

By Peter Maser
and Gregg Shilliday
Citizen staff writers

An Ottawa businessman shot in his right arm and left hand Monday during a hold-up attempt says he was "basically pretty lucky."

Claude Charette, 44, manager of the Institut Canadien Francais at 94 York St., was shot when two men entered the private social club about 8 a.m. and demanded money.

Charette fled through a side door but slipped in the parking lot outside. The two men, one wearing a balaclava and the other a stocking over his head, tackled him and began pistol-whipping him. Charette was shot twice in the struggle.

But the Hull resident insisted Monday night he was lucky.

"It really is a good thing I slipped. Otherwise, I'm sure they would have shot me down as I was running away. I'd rather be wounded than dead."

Charette, listed in satisfactory condition at the Ottawa General Hospital, admitted to being "pretty scared" during the incident, but says he ran out the side door more out of "instinct" than panic.

"I saw the door and I thought I could make it. I guess I was wrong."

Claude Cleroux, a Christmas tree vendor who saw the two robbers beating Charette, says he chased the pair through the Byward Market until they fired at him and convinced him their gun was real.

Ottawa police said Cleroux, 40, the lone witness to the shooting, was "a great aid to us."

Police are now questioning a suspect, arrested after he was spotted on the street by Cleroux. Two other men are still being sought.

"I was unloading my trees when I saw three guys wrestling on the ground," Cleroux said.

"I thought they were drunks so I didn't pay too much attention to them."

"Then I saw one of the guys — the one with the hat and brown coat — stand up and shoot at one of the guys on the ground."

"I don't remember what I said,

Deluxe buses mostly empty

By Lewis Seale
Citizen staff writer

There's still more luxurious elbow room on Voyager's deluxe super-bus service between Ottawa and Montreal than the bus company ever intended.

Voyager's deluxe buses are still ferrying mostly empty seats — and six or seven passengers a trip on the 29-seat buses.

But company officials say they are not worried:

"We by no means expected the market to develop overnight," marketing chief Paul McElligot said Monday.

The Voyager-2 service—with roomy three-abreast seating and complimentary newspapers—is aimed at luring businessmen and public servants away from the trains and planes and out of their cars.

By the end of 1981, the company hopes to be averaging close to 20 passengers per trip.

In the service's first week last month, the load factor was about 15 per cent, he said, compared to 20 or 25 per cent currently.

The onset of winter has brought some new passengers who would rather let someone else cope with slippery roads.

"Any time it snows, it helps us," said McElligot.

He would not disclose the break-even point for the Voyager-2 service, but acknowledged "it's more than 25 per cent" loading.

The Voyager-2 makes 10 round trips a day between the two cities and the fare is \$20 one way, nearly twice the \$9 it costs to make the trip on one of the regular 43- or 47-passenger buses.

but I yelled at them and started running at them. Right away they started running down York Street.

"He (Charette) was getting a good beating there. I'm sure they would have killed him."

"I was ready for a fight until they took a shot at me. I froze. They must have fired from about 100 feet."

It was about two minutes later, the vendor said, that he flagged down an Ottawa police sergeant.

Within seconds, they spotted a man in a brown coat running along Dalhousie Street onto St. Patrick Street.

According to police, the sergeant watched the man as he disappeared down a laneway beside 260 St. Patrick. He re-appeared seconds later and was arrested without a struggle.



—Russell Mant, Citizen

Claude Charette in hospital bed: 'I was pretty scared'

Chips can stay on the old block

By Tony Cole
Citizen staff writer

Justice of the Peace Lynn Coulter came out in favor of the small fry Monday.

Coulter ruled that a chip stand located 40 metres away from the Talk of the Town restaurant on the southwest corner of Metcalfe and Gloucester streets did not contravene a city bylaw because:

"I for one wouldn't dream of walking into the Talk of the Town and ordering a soft drink and french fries in a paper cup."

"I don't think the Talk of the Town's business was interrupted by the chip wagon" owned by Jeff Johnstone, she ruled.

A city bylaw passed last summer legalized chip wa-

gons in the city, but prohibited them from parking within 46 metres of a store selling similar products.

Charlie Hamway, the owner of the restaurant, complained to the city about the chip wagon shortly after it opened Sept. 2.

Under questioning, he said his restaurant was in the steak and seafood business, and it didn't have a takeout counter.

He admitted, however, that the chip wagon was hurting the business of a fast-food takeout counter he partially owns in Place Bell Canada, which is more than 46 metres from Johnstone's chip wagon.

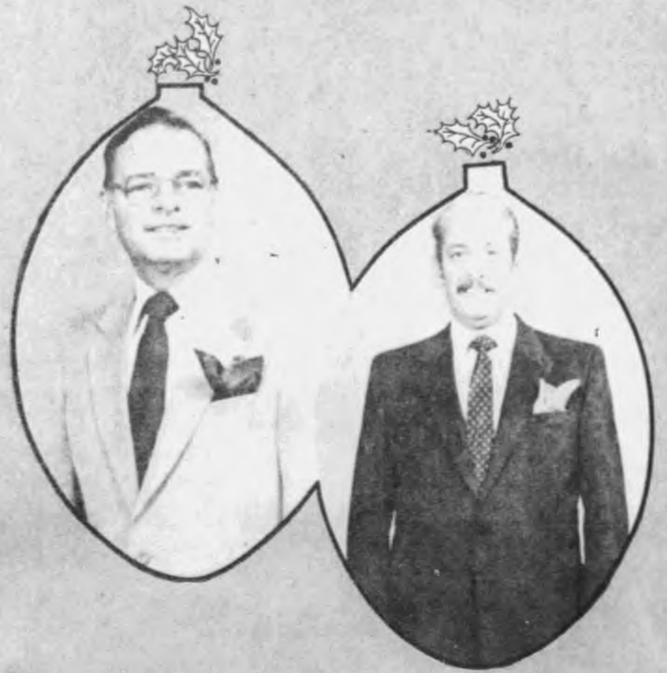
Brian Robb, Johnstone's lawyer, argued although the chip wagon qualifies by definition as a store, the restaurant does not.

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Left: Tom Vance models a stretch corduroy sports jacket... superb comfort with all the distinctive Cambridge tailoring & styling details. Sparks St. Only \$350.

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