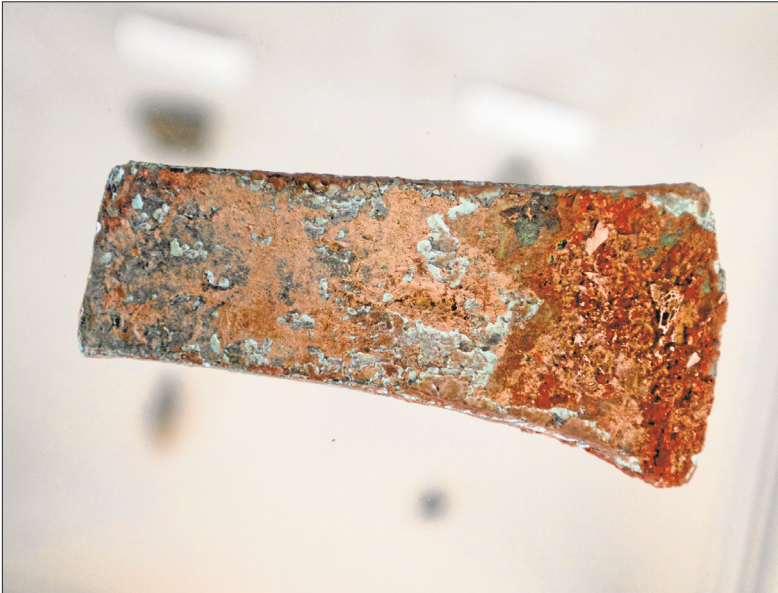


LOCAL

HISTORY LESSON



The Red Hill Valley Joint Stewardship Board, comprised of members from the City of Hamilton and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy chiefs' council, is showcasing a selection of archeological artifacts from the Red Hill Valley at a free public display. The exhibit — which includes pottery, projectile points and other artifacts — runs until May 16 at City Hall in Hamilton, and will move to the Great Atrium at Six Nations from May 19 to June 27. At left, Claire van Nierop adjusts signage in one of the display cases.

PHOTOS BY BARRY GRAY, THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

Ferguson won't join mayoral race

MATTHEW VAN DONGEN
The Hamilton Spectator

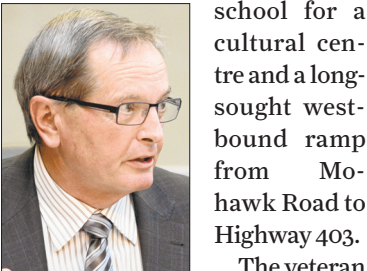
Count Lloyd Ferguson out of Hamilton's crowded mayoral race.

The Ancaster councillor officially squashed long-running rumours about his candidacy for the city's top job Monday, but vowed to seek re-election in Ward 12.

"I agonized over it hugely ... This is the last time I could do it," said the 64-year-old, adding the decision didn't get any easier after incumbent Bob Bratina announced he wouldn't run again.

"But the vast majority of people I've spoken to in the ward want me to stay where I am."

Ferguson said he's motivated to finish important ward projects such as the purchase of Memorial



Supporters 'want me to say where I am': Ferguson

school for a cultural centre and a long-sought west-bound ramp from Mohawk Road to Highway 403. The veteran councillor said an altercation with independent

journalist Joey Coleman in late February played "absolutely no role" in his decision to skip a run at the mayor's chair. Ferguson apologized in a public meeting the day after he grabbed and shoved Coleman following a late-night, emotional, in-camera meeting.

Two other council members, Brian McHattie and Brad Clark, have jumped into the mayoral race so far. Former politicians Fred Eisenberger and Don Ross are also in the mix. Rookie Crystal Lavigne, taxi driver Ejaz Butt and pot activist Michael Baldasaro have registered as well.

Another rumoured contender, Chad Collins, said he hasn't made a decision yet but is "leaning" toward running again for his Ward 5 seat. Former mayor Larry Di Ianni also said Monday an announcement about his political future is "imminent."

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Jon Wells nominated for CAJ award

Hamilton Spectator reporter Jon Wells has been nominated for an award from the Canadian Association of Journalists.

The CAJ announcement came Monday, the same day Wells found out he had won Journalist of the Year from the Local Media Association. The 46-year-old, who has been at the paper since 1997, has also been nominated for a National Newspaper Award.

The Spectator placed first in five other LMA categories, second in a further four categories and third in four others. The Spec's 14 awards made it the top newspaper winner.

The CAJ nominated Wells in its Daily Excellence category for Leaving Steel. It was about the city's fading reputation as a prominent maker of steel.

"Jon Wells is one of the great long-form newspaper writers in Canada," said Editor-in-Chief Paul Berton. "His reputation as a master storyteller precedes him."

The winner will be announced at a gala on May 10 in Vancouver. Wells is competing against reporters from the Vancouver Sun, Ottawa Citizen and CBC News. "The CAJ is a big honour," said Wells.

The Spectator won four other MLA awards. Columnist Susan Clairmont won for Best Continuing Coverage, the Paradise Lost project won for Best-in-Depth Reporting, the Research at What Cost? project won for a Best Feature award, and No Clean Water won an award for Best Environmental Coverage.

The LMA's membership is comprised of more than 2,000 newspapers in the U.S. and Canada. The Hamilton Spectator

Falcon lays 1st egg of 2014

Birdwatchers are in a flutter because the peregrine falcon that nests atop the Hamilton Sheraton Hotel has laid her first egg for 2014.

Madame X laid the egg sometime early Saturday morning on the 18th-floor ledge of the downtown King Street West landmark.

The news was relayed on the Hamilton Community Peregrine Project website (falcons.hamiltonnature.org) which details progress on the falcons and features images from two cameras near the nest. The falconcam has shown 15-year-old Madame X and her partner, 12-year-old Surge, standing guard over the egg.

A typical clutch of eggs is three or four, and birdwatchers expect more to arrive, possibly this week.

In 2013, Madame X and Surge had two chicks fledge from the nest. The first egg came in March. The Hamilton Spectator

Niagara bishop gets apology

Michael Bird filed defamation suit over blogger's postings

The legal squabble between Niagara Bishop Michael Bird and an Oakville blogger who criticized him is over.

The Diocese of Niagara says the pair has reached a settlement.

Blogger David Jenkins offered an apology to Bird for "any suffering he has experienced as a result of blog postings" on Jenkins' Anglican Samizdat blog, the diocese said in a media release issued Monday.

The terms of settlement also stipulate that Jenkins publish an apology on his blog, pay the majority of the legal costs, remove Bird from blog posts and agree not to publish any similar posts about him in the future.

"I am pleased that a settlement has now been reached and accept Mr. Jenkins' full and public apology

to me for the suffering he has caused," Bird said. "I believe that the successful conclusion to this action sends a strong message to all who unjustly seek power over others through bullying behaviours."

Bird filed suit against Jenkins for defamation of character in February of last year. The statement of claim identified 31 instances of defamation, among many other posts in which the bishop and his family were the subject of Jenkins' critical attacks over a five-year period.

Bird originally sought \$400,000 in damages from Jenkins, an Oakville resident who operates the blog Anglican Samizdat.

In a statement of defence, Jenkins described many of the online items as humour or satire, saying "no reasonable viewer or reader of

the blog postings would be expected to believe that the statements are true."

Jenkins also said he was "exercising his right to freedom of religion and expression" and that online posts are fair comment on a public figure.

The dispute began in 2008 when St. Hilda's Church in Oakville was served with papers to take possession of the church and freeze its bank account. St. Hilda's was one of three parishes that voted to part ways with the Anglican Church of Canada's Diocese of Niagara in February 2008. The standoff had been years in the making and stemmed from the belief, said some followers, that the Anglican Church of Canada had lost touch with the true Anglican faith. The Hamilton Spectator