

Submitted by
Councilor Mammoliti

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Belza's work extremely valuable
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Star Page N 4

Section NEIGHBOR
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As Chair of the North York Board of Education from 1986 to 1990, I was extremely disturbed by a May 30 Neighbors North story in which it is stated that the board paid a consultant almost \$600,000 to "talk to City Hall" about the proposed redevelopment of the Spring Garden school site. This statement is not only incorrect but defamatory to the parties involved.

First of all, the fees paid to the consultant in question, George Belza, were for four projects - not one - over a period of several years. Secondly, it is ludicrous to characterize the very technical work Mr. Belza did for the board, including preparing Ontario Municipal Board cases, as "talking."

I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Belza both in my capacity as Chair and as trustee for the area in which most of his work was centred. The broad range of tasks he undertook for the board were highly specialized and, as the results have shown, extremely valuable. Due to the fine work done by Mr. Belza - and by the other professionals such as lawyers, traffic engineers and architects retained by the board to work with him and our staff - we have been able to preserve the integrity of our school property while saving the public 10s of millions of dollars.

JOHN FILION

Trustee, Ward 11

North York

