

## Bus driver's kilt-ban complaint nixed

Adjudicator rules complainant failed to prove traditional garb is linked to ancestry

**GORDON PAUL**

WATERLOO REGION RECORD

KITCHENER — A Grand River Transit bus driver with Scottish ancestry, who was warned to not wear a kilt to work on a United Way casual Friday but did so anyway, alleged discrimination after he was told to change into his uniform.

The Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario tossed Tracy Macdonnell's complaint last week.

Macdonnell wore a kilt to work on Oct. 20, 2017, just one day after Grand River Transit had issued a directive forbidding staff from wearing one on duty. The rule took effect after another driver in a kilt

was sent home to change.

Macdonnell, who testified his grandmother was born in Glasgow and said he often listens to Scottish music, eats haggis and occasionally wears a kilt, was aware of the rule but told his supervisor he was going to break it.

"The supervisor responded, 'No, you are not.' The applicant replied, 'Yes, I am,'" according to the tribunal's ruling.

Macdonnell, employed by GRT for 14 years, testified "he wanted to place himself in jeopardy" so he could file a com-

plaint with the human rights tribunal.

When Macdonnell wore the kilt, his supervisor told him he was breaking the rule. He changed into his uniform and went back to work. He was not disciplined or docked pay.

A GRT memo says "while the kilt looks presentable, it is not aligned with the typical bus operator uniform and as such does not fit within the standard and therefore is not permitted," tribunal

KILT BAN continued on A2



MATHEW MCCARTHY WATERLOO REGION RECORD

## Parking ticket riles food bank donor

Mark Parnell paid the fine, but let several city councillors and the mayor know it's not a good look for the city

**JEFF HICKS**

WATERLOO REGION RECORD

CAMBRIDGE — The \$25 parking ticket is dealt with.

Mark Parnell paid the fine at city hall shortly after he got it on Ainslie Street South on Monday. There was no disputing the cold facts of the case.

He had parked in a no-parking zone beside the Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank for a few minutes as he dropped off a car load of pre-Christmas donations gathered from employees in the Hespeler office of a company that provides tax services to First Nations.

Parnell said that for three years he

did this with no issues. This year, the sales rep got the ticket. A commissioner, he said, shrugged off his excuse of dropping off donations. Parnell accepted the ticket and let several city councillors and the mayor know it was not a good holiday look for the city.

"They're still trying to reimburse me for the ticket," Parnell said Wednesday after the latest email from a city bylaw official. "This is not about the ticket."

Parnell, whose boss paid him for the ticket, sees a simple solution to prevent similar parking fines for food bank donors in the future.

"Make that area designated for

Mark Parnell stands in the spot in front of the Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank where he got a parking ticket while dropping off donations to the food bank.

PARKING TICKET continued on A2



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It's full steam ahead for Cambridge firm  
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## Trump impeached by U.S. House on charge of abuse of power

President third American chief executive to be formally charged under Constitution

**LISA MASCARO AND MARY CLARE JALONICK**  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump was impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday night, becoming only the third American chief executive to be formally charged under the Constitution's ultimate remedy for high

crimes and misdemeanours.

The historic vote split along party lines, much the way it has divided the nation, over the charges that the 45th president abused the power of his office by enlisting a foreign government to investigate a political rival ahead of the 2020 election. Then a majority of the House approved a second charge, that he obstructed Congress in its investigation.

The articles of impeachment, the political equivalent of an indictment, now go to the Senate for trial.

If Trump is acquitted by the Republican-led chamber, as expected, he would have to run for reelection carrying the enduring mark of impeachment on his purposely disruptive presidency.

Democrats led Wednesday night's voting, framed in what many said was their duty to protect the Constitution and uphold the nation's system of checks and balances. Republicans stood by their party's leader, who has frequently tested the bounds of civic norms. Trump called the whole affair a "witch



SCOTT OLSON GETTY IMAGES

hunt," a "hoax" and a "sham," and sometimes all three.

The trial is expected to begin in January in the Senate, where a vote of two-thirds is necessary for conviction. While Democrats had the

President Donald Trump hosts a rally at Kellogg Arena Wednesday in Battle Creek, Mich.

IMPEACHMENT continued on A2

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