## Ken Rubin and Mila Mulroney's expenses

by Tom Spears, Ottawa Citizen reporter, August 20, 2015

To get what Ken Rubin does, you have to know the story of Mila Mulroney's furniture. In 1993, the secretive National Capital Commission (NCC) decided to pay the Mulroney's for the furniture they left behind at 24 Sussex Drive, their former official residence. The NCC cut the Mulroney's a cheque for \$150,000, and there was an outcry from those who felt the NCC (and ultimately the public) had overpaid. The Mulroney's gave back the money, and things settled down.

But Ken Rubin didn't feel the story was finished. He fished around the way he loves to, and ultimately came up with an appraisal for the Mulroney castoffs from a reputable auction house.

They were worth \$39,050.

This is what Ken does. He pokes around and looks in locked filing cabinets, prying them open with various access to information laws, mostly at the federal level. He feels that people should have the right to know what their governments are doing, which is a radical idea in a town like Ottawa.

Ottawa would be duller place without Ken. And it would have a lot more secrets.