

Georgetown man is "teed off" with driving range

A Maple Avenue couple won't sit out in their backyard for fear of being struck by flying golf balls from a nearby driving range.

Town councillors heard from Robert Harris Monday night as he described the last seven years of cracked house windows and spoiled afternoon teas.

He said the windows were paid for by the North Halton Golf and Country Club. But "I always say, 'how are you going to pay for an eye for me,'" he told town councillors.

"We're not able to sit out on our

lawn comfortably without that thing going on in our minds that a ball is going to hit us."

But Mr. Harris said his concerns spread from his home to surrounding neighbors. He said last week he walked to the foot of the hill near his home "and this golf ball came right at me."

"Somebody could be very seriously hurt," he said.

Mr. Harris said his home "is in range of every ball." He added that his neighbors have received dents and smashed windows to their cars.

Monday morning before Mr. Harris came to the town's general committee meeting there were four balls fired at his home within an hour.

Town administrator Dan Costea said the town would make a "friendly neighbor call" to the golf course "to see if there's a solution to the problem."

The golf club before opening its driving range seven or eight years ago "did at least, morally respond to the town's request," said recreation and parks director Tom Shepard.

But Mr. Harris said a fence placed on the driving range by the golf club was not enough to stop the balls. He also said his property was prime territory for right-handed swingers, which he said make up "95-per-cent" of golfers.

"Please," he said to town councillors, "could you do something. If so, can you do it quickly?"

Coun. Pam Johnston supported Mr. Harris' claims that the driving range is dangerous to those passing by on Maple Avenue. She said there were 25 to 30 balls that hit the road during her bicycle ride one

day.

Mr. Harris retains his sense of humor in light of the golf ball problem on the property he has lived on for 36 years. He said he sells the found golf balls at a garage sale.

"I'm very tempted sometimes to get my own clubs out and hit them back," he said to town councillors.

But more seriously, he added he's "interested in the public as well as myself."

"It's common sense not to have a range at the side of the roadway."

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A long wait for malpractice decision

By DONNA KELL
 Herald Staff

It could be at least 18 months before the results of an investigation involving two child birth doctors - one from Georgetown and one from Brampton - are released by the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons.

A former Georgetown resident, Martha Meers, 28, filed a complaint requesting an investigation into the professional conduct of Georgetown obstetrician and gynecologist Valerie Kumar and Brampton gynecologist and obstetrician B.K. Sennik.

Ms. Meers alleges the doctors are responsible for the bursting of her Fallopian tube March 17 as the result of an ectopic pregnancy, a pregnancy outside the womb.

Ms. Meers told the Herald, after signing an official information release, that she was in the emergency department of Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital March 17 before being transferred to Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga where she experienced hemorrhaging.

She alleges that the staff at Credit Valley say she should not have been moved in her condition. Ms. Meers also says Dr. Kumar, the only gynecologist and obstetrician residing in Georgetown, was

unavailable to see her for the three hours she spent at Georgetown hospital where Dr. David Cook performed a blood test confirming she was pregnant.

Ms. Meers says blood tests were conducted by Dr. Sennik in Brampton on the recommendation of Dr. John Ng of Georgetown, the day before she was admitted to Georgetown with severe pain. Dr. Ng was treating Ms. Meers in the absence of her regular doctor, Dr. Jack Ford.

But a spokesman for the college of physicians and surgeons said it could take at least a year before the result of an investigation into the conduct of Doctors Kumar and Sennik is released to the public. College director of communications Linda Franklin says after a written complaint is received, evidence is gathered from both witnesses for the doctor and for the complainant.

The evidence then goes to the complaints committee of the college where it could take as long as 18 months to process. Mrs. Franklin says this is large due to a backlog of investigations made by the college.

The complaints committee looks for evidence of "profound misconduct."

If misconduct is discovered, the

complaint carries through to the discipline committee, where a formal hearing is held to decide a penalty for the offending doctor. The system is "quasi-judicial," Mrs. Franklin said.

"If the doctor's found guilty at this point, it's the discipline committee that decides the punishment," she said.

Penalties can be as lenient as an "unpublished reprimand" where the doctor's conduct appears in a medical journal but does not bear his or her name, or could be as harsh as a revoking of the doctor's licence.

If the complaints committee finds the doctor innocent of improper conduct, the decision can be appealed to the provincially-operated body, the Health Disciplines Board.

But 80 per cent of cases appealed to the board are upheld with the college's decision, said Mrs. Franklin.

There are 17,000 practicing physicians and surgeons in Ontario of the 24,000 registered in the province. Of that number, 750 are investigated by the college of physicians and surgeons each year. But less than seven per cent of those investigated are found guilty of improper professional conduct.



Police week display - Oakville Town Centre

Constable Deborah MacDuffee of Georgetown was one of many Halton Regional Police officers at the Police Week display in Oakville Town Centre. Halton police were joined by the CN Police, the OPP and the RCMP in meeting with the public. Events are scheduled at the mall for this weekend. For more Police Week photos turn to Page 6. (Herald photo)

Police Week means getting close to police

By BEN DUMMETT
 Herald Staff

Halton Regional Police are returning to the ways of the early sixties as "shakes hands with a police officer" becomes the theme for this year's Police Week, which wraps up this weekend.

Like it was thirty years ago when towns were smaller, the force is getting in touch with the community, said Detective Keith Robertson of 11 Division precinct in Georgetown. Det. Robertson has

been a police officer in Halton Region for almost 20 years.

He attributes improved community relations in North Halton to the recent introduction of village constables. Acton and Milton have village constables - police who walk the local beat. Georgetown is expected to get its own village constable within a year.

Milton Village Constable Larry Masson said people are receptive

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He walked away!

A man who walked away from the split cab of a Mack truck Wednesday was charged by Milton Ontario Provincial Police with careless driving. Police say the loaded gravel truck was southbound through Hornby and lost its load on the eastbound ramp to Highway 401. (Herald photo by Donna Kell)

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