

# THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

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## Blaze destroys estate home

A Halton Hills home was destroyed by fire early Friday morning. Fortunately, the residents of the Forest Ridge Cr. home got out safely. Damage is estimated at between \$1.4 and \$1.5 million. **Below**, Halton Hills Fire Department provided a photo of the raging blaze. **See story page 4.**

Photo (left) by Ted Brown



# RioCan legal action could thwart mall competitor

By **LISA TALLYN**  
Staff Writer

Mall wars have broken out in Halton Hills with the Town of Halton Hills squarely caught in the middle.

In a press release issued by the Town Friday afternoon, it was revealed the Town and Region of Halton had been served by RioCan Acquisitions Inc. with an application to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice to quash the bylaws passed by the Town to enable the construction of the proposed \$170 million Calloway REIT (450,000 sq. ft.) outlet mall at Trafalgar Rd. and Hwy. 401.

The application also requests declarations that the Town and Regional site plan and servicing agreements, respectively, were entered into illegally with the owner of the site, Calloway REIT.

On Monday, however, RioCan discontinued its action against Halton Region. Also, a claim against both the Town and Region for \$50 million, if the bylaws aren't quashed and the agreements declared illegal, was withdrawn and approved by the Superior Court.

At press time no one at Calloway REIT or RioCan was available for comment.

Town of Halton Hills CAO Dennis Perlin said procedurally it wasn't correct on RioCan's part to have a damage claim included with a quashing application. He said, however, if the court finds the Town acted in bad faith, RioCan could still sue the Town for damages.

But the Town doesn't believe it acted in bad faith.

"RioCan's lawsuit seeks to prevent the construction of this very significant project in the Town's 401/407 Gateway Industrial Park and is entirely without merit," said Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette.

"The Town, at all times, acted in accordance with all applicable law in providing the necessary approvals, passing the required bylaws, entering into the

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