

## Town Council requests revisions to appeals process with the OMB

By: Dawn Brown

Halton Hills Town Council voted to put forth a request to the Government of Ontario to review the land use appeals process and extend the regulated timelines at the Monday, May 5 council meeting. The request is in support of February 2016 resolution by The Town of Richmond Hill requesting the Province of Ontario to review the land use appeals process to support the rights of municipalities to make decisions that adhere to official plans and meet community needs.

The resolution also requests timelines before an applicant can request an appeal be extended to provide time for meaningful negotiations and prevent applicants from appealing to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) before thorough negotiations have been completed.

"How can you not make comments on the follies on the OMB?" said Regional Councillor Clark Somerville. "This probably would have been easier to just say let's scrap it, but I think in reality we have to look, as the province doesn't think

we're mature as municipalities to be able to do that, so let's look at things that are wrong with it that can probably be fixed."

Somerville explained that timeline to make a decision from when an application is completed is so short that it is not fair. He also cited the planning for the sustainable Halton process that has cost 4.5 million dollars since 2006. However the appeals part for the plan, which past in December 2009, is not complete and has cost 3.5 million to defend the plan at the regional level.

"If you ever want to



**GREAT GALA:** Councillor Jon Hurst, Kathleen Dills of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Rick Bonnette were very pleased with the sold out evening for the Rotary Club of Acton's Annual Rotary Gala and Silent Auction last Saturday evening at the Town Hall Centre. This is a large fundraising event and all money raised from the Gala goes to supporting community programs. — Ted Tyler photo

look at something that's a driver on tax rates, there's something right there," Somerville said.

"We've had many applications that the developers, before staff even have a chance to get all the paperwork in order and call a public meeting, it's referred

to the OMB," said councillor Moya Johnson. "Then we're forced to make a bit of a quick decision so there's a position to go forward with. It's not the right way to do things."

"It's not just us," added Mayor Rick Bonnette, referring to the Hidden Quarry

in Rockwood. "They (the applicant) didn't wait for a decision. They went right to the OMB before the Guelph/Eramosa council could even make a decision on the application, forcing everybody's hand prematurely, so I'm glad this came forward."

## POLICE REPORT

### Break and enter and arson

On Thursday, May 5 at approximately 6 p.m., Uniform Patrol officers were called to Percy Mary School located on Britannia Road just west of Trafalgar Road, Milton.

Information was received that a male suspect had broken into the abandoned

school and was currently within the building. Upon arrival the suspect was located and arrested after a short foot pursuit. As officers were in attendance the school became engulfed in flames, resulting in total destruction of the property.

A 19 years of Milton is charged with the following offences:

- Break and Enter
- Arson
- Possession of a Controlled Substance

He had been held in Police custody pending a bail hearing.

Members of the Halton Regional Police continue to investigate this incident. Anyone with information is asked to contact the 1 District Criminal Investigations Bureau at 905-825-4747 ext. 2420, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-

222-TIPS (8477), online at [www.haltoncrimestoppers.com](http://www.haltoncrimestoppers.com), or by texting "Tip201" with your message to 274637 (crimes).

### Bike stolen

On May 9, a rural property owner on Highway 25, north of Acton reported that a \$1200 Kona Mountain Bike was stolen from an unlocked garden shed.

The bicycle was last seen on April 28 and the owners said they had not seen anything unusual during that

time on their property.

### Police warn youth about "The Assassin game"

The Halton Regional Police Service is warning youth about the dangerous of playing "the assassin game."

Over the past few days police have received several calls from the public regarding suspicious activity and youths in possession of firearms.

Further investigation has revealed that the alleged

firearms were in fact water guns used by local youths engaged "the assassins game."

Several of the water guns used have closely resembled the appearance of a real firearm.

These incidents have caused public distress and elevated police response.

The Halton Regional Police Service would like to discourage youth from participating this dangerous game.

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