## Halton police release report in wake of sex assault stats

Continued from page 13

They say the 42 cases in which the offence had not been committed did not meet the criteria in determining whether a sexual assault had indeed been committed, so charges could not be laid.

Police services in Canada have been tasked by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police to update procedures regarding sexual assault investigations.

To comply, the Halton force will work alongside Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services (SAVIS), and the Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Unit will investigate all allegations of sexual assault.

Alma Arguello, SAVIS executive director, and representatives from the Halton police met on Feb. 9 to discuss ways of better supporting victims of sexual assault, such as training officers in trauma interviewing.

All of us in our community have a responsibility, and it doesn t just fall to the police and it doesn t just fall to SAVIS, Arguello told the *Independent*. We all have a responsibility to be able to provide a space for survivors of sexual violence to feel safe.

According to a news release from SA-VIS sent last week, false allegations of sexual assault are not common.

SAVIS states what is common is survivors and victims not being believed or supported when they divulge their experiences.

## Tribunal rules on Halton Hills two-hatter case

Continued from page 41

We value (our two hatters), we respect them, (but) the whole issue is a fight between them and their parent associations, said deHooge.

That response sparked a reply from Caledon mayor Allan Thompson via Twitter, who said Caledon was supporting its two hatters on principle and would continue to do so even if they only employed one.

Smaller communities across the province often employ two hatters often referred to a volunteers as a cost-saving measure in areas where firefighters might not be kept as busy as in larger centres. It is important to note volunteer or two-hatter firefighters are paid for their services.

While The IFP has not yet been able to confirm the current status of the three remaining firefighters, deHooge believed all of the men would likely eventually resign from their part-time roles in Halton Hills when speaking to The IFP last month.

Let s be realistic, are they going to give up their (full-time) wage, their pension and benefits (to work part-time (here) instead? Would you do that? said deHooge.



519-833-2614



