

Extensive fire damage to Georgetown Little Theatre in suspected arson

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The Ontario Fire Marshal is investigating a suspicious fire that caused extensive damage to the interior of the Georgetown Little Theatre on Stewarttown Road on Wednesday evening.

Halton Regional Police and the Halton Hills Fire Department responded to an alarm at about 10 p.m. on Wednesday, arriving on the scene to discover that the building had been broken into and an active fire was inside.

Firefighters extinguished the blaze and the Ontario Fire Marshal's Andrea Gaynor was brought in Thursday to investigate its suspicious nature.

"Heat detectors saved the building for sure," said Gaynor. "The building had an alarm system in place and the smoke alarm worked."

Anyone with information is asked to contact the HRPS One District Criminal Investigations Bureau at 905-878-5511 ext. 2416.

Tips can also be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), through the website www.haltoncrimestoppers.ca or by texting "Tip 201" with a message to 274637 (CRIMES).

Georgetown Little Theatre Pro-



Eamonn Maher/Metroland

The Ontario Fire Marshal was in Stewarttown on Thursday afternoon to investigate a suspicious fire from the previous night at the Georgetown Little Theatre, located on Stewarttown Road. The fire caused extensive damage but could have been much worse if not for heat detectors and smoke alarms, the investigator said.

ductions president Virginia Bancur visited the building last Thursday afternoon to inspect the damage and declined to comment to the IFP or allow a photographer into the building for now, noting that the organization was planning to hold an emergency meet-

ing on Aug. 12.

In April 1998, the Georgetown Little Theatre's rehearsal hall in Stewarttown was destroyed by fire and subsequently rebuilt in 2002. The group marked its 50th anniversary last year.

Deadline for offers on club is Aug. 28

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A valuation of its worth is expected to be determined in the next couple of months.

The club is also currently the defendant in a unique class-action lawsuit in Ontario Superior Court involving some of its nongolfing, non-member shareholders in a dispute over the value of their shares, claiming the club's "inverse pyramid scheme" doesn't allow for the shares to be divested (to other club members only) at a fair price.

The class action is asking for damages or other benefits for the class as an oppression remedy under the Canada Business Corporations Act.

It is also asking for attorneys' costs, plus interest and that the ownership structure of the Club at North Halton be dissolved and its net assets distributed among all shareholders.

Peter Noble, who filed the lawsuit on behalf of the 122 nongolfing, non-member shareholders, consisting of about a quarter of the entire shareholder base, said he's been unable to find a comparable case in Canadian law certified by a court in which so many of a corporation's sharehold-

ers have filed a class action against it.

"It's an unfortunate situation, but it's just inevitable," Noble said.

"The market for golf is shrinking and what it is particularly tough on North Halton is that its business model is based on this high initiation slash equity, and both of those markets are gone.

"Ever since the financial crisis of 07-08, corporations have stopped funding those sorts of things, so it's basically pay as you play. When (the club) bought out the McNally family shares at \$32,000 (each), they recut the capital of the company to pay out equity for all the shareholders.

"Regardless of the lawsuit, it's basically just an arithmetic issue and it doesn't work anymore."

Noble added that he's spoken with real-estate agents in the area who have estimated the value of an acre of serviced residential property (sewer and water) for sale at approximately \$1.5 million, with an acre of unserviced land said to be worth about half that.

A summary judgment motion for the lawsuit is scheduled to be heard in January 2018 by Ontario Superior Court Justice Edward Belobaba.

CtK student earns Governor General nod

The Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) has announced the recipients for this past school year's Governor General Bronze Medal, and a Christ the King student has done the community proud.

With an average of 94.88 per cent, Christ the King Catholic Secondary School student Marta Kraguljac earned a medal, along with eight other students from the HCDSB.

The average of each stu-

dent takes results from all grade 11 and 12 courses.

"This medal of honour is a reflection of the academic perseverance and commitment to excellence demonstrated in our award recipients," Paula Dawson,

director for education at HCDSB, said in a news release. "We wish our students continued success as they embark on their post-secondary education, and in their future career endeavours."

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