

# Swastika spray-painted on house in Halton Hills shortly after Charlottesville attack

**GRAEME FRISQUE**  
gfrisque@metroland.com

Residents in the area of 15 Side Road and Regional Road 25 in Halton Hills were shocked and appalled to find racist graffiti on an abandoned building three days after the tragic events in Charlottesville, Virginia earlier this month.

The hate-inspired graffiti included a pink swastika with the words "Hail Hitler" spray-painted on the building. There were also reports of sexual explicit graffiti found on other parts of the house.

"I am very saddened to see these messages of hate at corner Regional Road 25 and Side Road 15 at Speyside. Even sadder is that my attention was drawn to them by guests who were on their way to visit us. I have lived and worked

here with my family for almost 30 years and this is not the community I want to be a part of," said area resident Dr. Elayne Tanner in an email to The IFP.

Perhaps most disturbing was the timing. The graffiti was discovered on Aug. 15, just three days after a woman was killed in Charlottesville when a car drove into a crowd of protesters. A white supremacist is charged with doing it deliberately. Nineteen other people were injured.

The attack followed a weekend of protests dubbed "Unite the Right" which included neo-Nazi groups, members of the Ku Klux Klan and the so-called "alt-right". Nazi, Klan and white supremacist symbols and chants were featured prominently during the march.

"I know we all watched in horror as we watched



Photo submitted by Dr. Elayne Ta

**Vandals spray-painted hate graffiti on an abandoned structure near 15 Side Road and Regional Road 25 in Halton Hills just days after the brutal attack and hate marches in Charlottesville, Virginia earlier this month.**

the news and videos of the racially motivated act of violence in Charlottes-

ville and it was almost like you were back in a time machine and you're in

1857 pre-Civil War .," said Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette during a council

meeting on Monday, Aug. 28.

The mayor's comments were in reference to a motion passed by council proclaiming zero tolerance for racism in Halton Hills.

"I think we're all appalled that in 2017, people with this type of mentality are still carrying on," said Bonnette.

"We're not (isolated), we've had a recent incident in Halton Hills via graffiti. Diversity is our strength. In Halton Hills everybody should feel welcome no matter what their religion is, what their colour is, what their sexual orientation is. Everybody should feel safe to be in this town and we should support zero tolerance for racism of any kind," he added. The offensive graffiti has since been covered up.

## Snowbirds to soar over Halton Hills Thursday

The Town of Halton Hills will be treated to a 'flypast' by the Canadian Forces Snowbirds, 431 Air Demonstration Squadron Thursday.

Organizers estimate that the flypast will take place at around 1:45 p.m., but that time is subject to change due to a variety of factors. Check back with the IFP's website for updates.

Local business Yorkshire Enterprises and a representative from the Canada 150 Federal Sec-

retariat helped organize the event.

The flypast recognizes the successful 'Most Patriotic Town in Canada' challenge led by the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee, co-chaired by Cheryl Cardon, Circus Strategic Communications Inc. and Councillor Ann Lawlor.

Local sponsors contributed to the effort and residents proudly purchased and displayed more than 57,000 Canadian flags on July

1. "The flypast by the Canadian Snowbirds is just another way that our town has been taken to new heights," quipped Mayor Rick Bonnette. "I'm delighted that this recognition by such an esteemed and valued symbol of Canada will be sharing their talents with our community."

The pilot of Snowbird 7, Capt. Maciej Hatta, was born in Gdansk, Poland, but grew up in Georgetown and his parents re-

side here.

Hatta has filmed numerous videos of the Snowbirds in flight with the use of a "Tank Cam," consisting of three HD GoPro cameras attached to Snowbird 1 showing the team in flight.

He joined the Snowbirds in 2013 and brings more than 2,000 hours of military jet flying experience to the team and his number 7 position is on the outer left wing.

The flypast will take place along Highway 7 from Norval to

Acton. People interested in watching are encouraged to find a viewing location along this route. The Canadian Snowbirds expect to fly 500 feet over the highest point of the route, providing ample opportunity for people to see them in action. In the event the fly over cannot occur on Aug. 31, alternate dates up to Sept. 5 will be considered.

The town's website (halton-hills.ca) will also be updated with this information as necessary.

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