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## The Club at North Halton's shareholders vote no to sale of property

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Shareholders in The Club at North Halton voted down the opportunity last week to pursue an agreement with developers to sell the century-old course's land and buildings.

Club president Rod Butcher said last week in an interview that the board of directors fielded more than 30 offers from developers and whittled that figure down to the top two, after broker of record Colliers International was retained to solicit bids for the potential sale. The private, for-profit club was approached over the past few months by multiple developers who were interested in possibly purchasing the 144-acre property at the corner of Trafalgar Road and Maple Avenue and turning it into a housing development.

North Halton's board was given a mandate at its annual general meeting earlier this year to determine a fair market value for the course's land and buildings and shareholders were given two weeks to come to a decision prior to the vote.

A vote in favour of accepting one of the developers' offers would have resulted in the dissolution of the club's board and facility operations. A two-thirds majority was required in order for the board to pursue a sale.

Approximately 90 per cent of the shareholders voted and while Butcher didn't re-

veal the exact outcome of the tally, he noted that it was "convincing" in favour of turning down the option of selling - at least in the foreseeable future.

"It's hard to envisage under what circumstances where we could get any more offers - not for a considerable time until things change going forward," he said.

"Colliers is very well-connected as far as selling blocks of land for development. They scoured the available developers for offers and I think we've seen the best that's out there. I would hazard a guess that it would be years, not months, until we went through it again. This isn't a process you want to go through every year."

Concerns about the future of the course also came from members of the community who have booked weddings at the club through next year and for those who had Christmas parties or meetings planned in the dining area. At its peak times during the summer, about 90 employees work at the course, one of only two 18-hole layouts in Georgetown. Butcher added that the board will now be able to shift its attention on improvements to the golf course, including replacement of its irrigation system, and the impact of the impending widening of Trafalgar Road to four lanes.

"Is that going to effectively destroy the look of the place?" he wondered. "What are we going to do about it? We haven't had the chance to meet and discuss that yet."



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