

# Vandalism at former Georgetown bowling alley

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Officer J.P. Filippetto photographed the broken windows of the former Georgetown Bowl bowling alley, after responding to reports from the owner of vandalism.

The building has been vacant since September last year, after dispute between the landlord and tenant.

As Filippetto stuck a small sticker on the broken glass beside the impact point, he explained that the marker is for scale, in case they need to determine what instrument was used to cause the damage.

Anyone with information should contact Halton police.



Alexandra Heck/Metroland

**Officer J.P. Filippetto of the Halton Region Police Department's Forensics Unit takes photos of broken windows at the former Georgetown Bowl building.**

# Town looks to update planning fees

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Planning fees for development in the town of Halton Hills cover only about 40 per cent of the actual cost to process the applications.

That's what consultants from Watson and Associates found in their latest review of fees for work that planners do annually.

"If they're not being recovered by applicants, by default they're being recovered by taxes," said Andrew Grunda, with the consultant firm that the town commissioned for the study.

Grunda gave a presentation to the committee of planning, public works and transportation, in order to give an update on the progress before submitting the report in June.

They recommend the

town increase their planning fees by 11 per cent in order to boost cost recovery to 71 per cent.

They also advise that the town removes the 50 per cent discount for development in the 401-employment area because it is now a desirable location but feel that the 50 per cent discount in planning fees for downtown office developments should be maintained.

"We wanted to be cognizant of the impacts of some of these types of fees," said Grunda, explaining that the consultants studied the differences in cost recovery between various kinds of planning applications and found that some are higher than others.

In the grand scheme, he said, the planning fees do not make up a large portion of the fees collected by the

town when a developer comes forward with a project; it's the development charges that make up a greater portion.

With a bar graph, Grunda compared Halton Hills' development charges and planning fees with other cities and towns in the GTA.



"There's more fees that it looks like we could collect to help development pay for itself," said Mayor Rick Bonnette.

Members of the developer community will be consulted on these proposed changes at an upcoming meeting.

Coun. Clark Somerville noted that he expects developers to oppose the plans.

"That's what we would expect them to say," he said.

The final report on planning fees is set to come to council on June 11.


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