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# The Independent

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## Builder frustrated by vandalism

Developer Nick Ferraro (below) is so frustrated by the vandalism he's had to contend with at his downtown Georgetown townhouse development he's put up a \$2,000 reward to catch whoever is responsible. (Right) Mark Ferraro surveys the damage done to his truck recently when a fire extinguisher was discharged in the cab. See story page 3. Photos by Ted Brown



## Town, councillors acted properly in land deal— OPP

An Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) investigation has found there were no improprieties in a 2004 land swap between the Town of Halton Hills and North Halton Golf and Country Club.

The OPP Anti-Rackets Section released the findings of its investigation Friday.

In the media release it was stated OPP determined there was no relationship between the request of the land by the golf club from the Town and the subsequent resignation of former Town Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Steve Andrews (in July 2003).

"The investigation also determined

that any Town councillors with connection to the golf club declared their conflict when required and no improprieties were uncovered," it was stated in the release.

OPP began looking into the circumstances surrounding the resignation of Andrews and the nine-acre land swap following a request last September by Halton Regional Police, who were originally investigating the matter after receiving a complaint last year from a group of Halton Hills citizens.

On July 7, 2003, Halton Hills council approved the Arbor Valley subdivision being developed by Mattamy Homes. That same evening NHGCC president

David McNally complained that nine acres of open space located within the Arbor Valley development abutting the golf course had been promised to NHGCC in a longstanding agreement with the Arbor Valley owner. But those nine acres had been dedicated to the town as open space.

McNally had accused the Town (Andrews) of "interfering" with that longstanding agreement. Later that evening, council held an in-camera meeting, which has long been speculated to have included a vote on the fate of Andrews. His resignation was approved three days later. Several council members subsequently stated

on the record that McNally's complaint over the nine acres and the Andrews' resignation were not related.

The land swap deal was concluded a year later in June 2004 when the Town's nine acres were swapped for a similar-sized parcel on NHGCC's southeast corner, adjacent to the Stewart Mills subdivision. The deal had no financial impact. NHGCC used the nine acres as a buffer zone between the course and the new homes, while the other parcel, now owned by the Town, will be used as part of the town's trail system.

See MAYOR, pg. 4

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