

THE INDEPENDENT

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Friday, October 26, 2007

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Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper

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Acton firm receives safety award

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Alma mater honours GDHS grad

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WEDNESDAY...

Having extra money and wondering where to spend it is the unusual position the Halton District School Board finds itself in. See details Wednesday.

For breaking news go to: www.independentfreepress.com



Michael Jander of Acton stands beside some graffiti which was recently painted on the side of St. George's Anglican Church in Georgetown. Jander, the owner of CAMA International, has developed a graffiti eradication program and is hoping local businesses will contribute to the plan which has the backing of the Town of Halton Hills. Photo by Ted Brown

Eradication program needs corporate support

Town to wage war against graffiti

CYNTHIA GAMBLE and LISA TALLYN Staff Writers

An Acton man is putting his 17 years of experience in law enforcement to good use by starting an initiative to eliminate graffiti in his own hometown.

Michael Jander, who has his own business, CAMA International, has developed a graffiti eradication program to remove and control graffiti.

"I live here, so I take this personally," he said.

"Graffiti is an act of vandalism that places a significant burden on a municipality's budget, and may also cause property values to decrease and result in a heightened fear of crime in the community," said Jander.

"If graffiti is not removed quickly it sends

out a message that people do not care about their neighbourhood."

Tony Ciufu, owner of Halton Hills Sewing Machine, said his business was among several locally hit by graffiti artists.

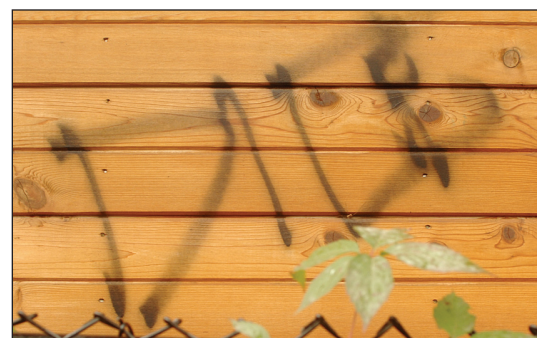
It cost him just over \$200 to have the graffiti removed by a graffiti removal company.

"It's just a waste all-around," said Ciufu.

He said in his 17 years in business in town this is the first time he has been the victim of graffiti artists.

"It's not something we would expect in Georgetown. I'm really surprised," said Ciufu. "We're feeling good about our community then something like this happens and it makes you wonder what's going on. We know it's not particularly directed against us."

As a six-year resident, Jander has been seeing increasing incidences of graffiti here, including the possible beginnings of a Bloods



Vandals targeted this natural wood shed on a homeowner's property near the Georgetown Fairgrounds recently. Photo by Ted Brown

and Crips gang (or their copycats) turf war moving into area.

See 'GANG', pg. 7

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