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the OPP and York Regional Police reported that they could find no evidence to lay criminal charges against anybody. The police checked all Duffy's bank books and records from every supplier for his house. "They found in some cases I overpaid."

Duffy's name also came up in the ill-fated Patricia Starr inquiry, when it was stated that he was a co-chairman with Starr of a fund-raising dinner for the then minister of municipal affairs, Bernard Grandmaitre. "I sell tickets for a lot of things," says Duffy. "I was selling a few tickets for that. Next thing I know, I read that I was the co-chairman."

The newspapers tarred former regional engineering commissioner Robert Hodgson with the same brush of links with developers. Hodgson was fired last June. Duffy said he favored splitting the department in two when he was at the Region, and Hodgson "could have run either one."

He knew Hodgson well, and drove him home a few nights, he said. "If you have to (replace) somebody, there's a proper way of doing it, with warnings, etc. It should be done quietly."

Duffy also thought that Richmond Hill could have fired Taylor quietly, although he was one of the first to know. "He 'phoned me the day he confessed, to apologize for the embarrassment."

But other negotiations, such as the search for temporary headquarters for the Town and development renegotiations, "should be done in public." §