

OTTAWA

# RUSH HOUR

YOUR FREE AFTERNOON NEWS UPDATE & EVENING GUIDE

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

WEATHER

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## City in conflict over Kanata development: auditor

### Ottawa RushHour

The City of Ottawa placed itself in a conflict of interest when it joined the Kanata West Owners Group, then had to act as the agency approving development of the land around Scotiabank Place, the city auditor has reported.

The audit, being presented to city council today, found that studies and reports done for the development were incomplete or wrong and that the engineering consultants doing the work were also in a possible conflict of interest because they had two masters: the city, with the legal responsibility to scrutinize the work, and the developers who own the land.

The audit said the engineering work should be redone, at no cost to the city, before building is allowed in Kanata West.

The development has been controversial because the Carp River and its tributaries run through the land and some of the land could be prone to flooding. Two water resources engineers who work for the city had raised



MIKE CARROCCETTO, OTTAWA RUSHHOUR

Ducks fly over the Carp River near Palladium Drive. An auditor's report said the City of Ottawa placed itself in a conflict of interest over the question of developing land around Scotiabank Place.

concerns about the development of Kanata West because of concerns about flooding.

In February, the city promised a full, independent investigation after it was discovered that the planning study for the proposed development didn't take into

account all of the water that will be running off the land and Mayor Larry O'Brien praised city water engineer Ted Cooper, who had warned that the proposed development of 700 hectares around Scotiabank Place could cause serious flooding.

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