

Doef's Ironworks

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Belleville withdraws objection

By Chris Malette

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Belleville council believes its days of providing developmental hurdles for its neighbors are past.

In that vein, council Monday decided it would not object to an application by Doef's Ironworks Ltd. for a proposed manufacturing plant for portable sawmills and its ironworks facilities — to be moved from Thurlow Township to Sidney's Concession 3.

Planning director Stewart Murray had urged the city's planning advisory committee to express concerns to Sidney about "premature demands" for urban services such as sewer and water to such initiatives as Doef's.

Those services, argued Murray, would have to be provided by Belleville, but Doef's consultant Arnold Vandermeer told the planning committee Doef's had no intention of using anything but "private services" and that there is no requirement for extension of such services from the city.

Coun. Wolf Tausendfreund, a vocal proponent of the live-and-let-build theory of inter-municipal relations, told council Sidney "doesn't care much what we have to say" about their development plans and are only circulating their zoning bylaw amendment because "provincial regulations require that we be given a look-see."

Murray, however, told council he still believes "there is a need in the Greater Quinte area for the development of a strategic plan for the utilization of sewer and water services..."

Council voted to receive Murray's report, outlining concerns about the Doef's project, and to send word to Sidney it has no objections to the project.