

Indy-type speedway, drag strip proposed for Esqueusing farms

Plans for a mammoth International Speedway, between the Third and Fourth Lines of Esqueusing just north of Highway 401, were unveiled at a special meeting of Esqueusing Council Monday night.

Between 30 and 40 residents of that area of Esqueusing south of Five Sideroad jammed the township council chambers

Monday night as promoters finally appeared to reveal plans for a car raceway in the area.

Last week, residents of a northern end of the township had appeared to voice their opposition to a drag strip under construction between the Fifth and Sixth Lines north of Highway 7.

After apologizing for his

group's delay in presenting plans before Council, lawyer E. A. Goodman went on to explain his clients own 240 acres of land and propose to build a one and three-quarter mile oval raceway and stands that will accommodate approximately 20,000 spectators. The southern half of the oval, which would run almost parallel to Highway

401, would be extended to also serve as a drag strip 3,000 feet in length.

Main features of the raceway would be two or possibly three large events for open wheel racing cars, similar to those used at the Indianapolis Speedway. These events would draw crowds of between 20,000 and 30,000. Three or four smaller events would attract crowds of close to 12,000. In addition 10 to 15 drag strip racing events, some with professional drivers and others open to the public would be held.

Allowing for one or two days warmup for the main events, Mr. Goodman estimated the raceway would be in use about 45 days a year. The events themselves would be held on weekends and holidays only, from May until September.

Mr. Goodman said the raceway would be completely fenced in to meet International racing standards, but did not deny that people living in the eight homes adjacent to the raceway would experience the inconvenience of noise on the days events were held. However,

he went on to say that his clients were prepared to spend "tens of thousands of dollars on landscaping in an effort to muffle the sound".

"We are prepared to meet collectively or individually with these eight," Mr. Goodman promised.

The raceway site was chosen because of its proximity to exits and entrances to highways 401 and 25, and because of the rising interest in auto racing in this part of the province. Mr. Goodman said his clients were prepared to assist the municipality financially with any problems the raceway would create on township roads.

Mr. Goodman said his clients could either provide their own sewage in accordance with Department of Health regulations or were prepared to stand the cost of hooking up with Milton's sewage system. Water, he hoped, could be either brought in by truck or purchased from the town of Milton.

"This is a good type of assessment for Council to have", Mr. Goodman concluded. He estimated the project would cost in the neighborhood of \$2 million.

In answer to a question from deputy-reeve Tom Hill, Mr. Goodman said he wasn't certain if any members of his group were among those who previously tried to locate in Chinguacousy Township, but admitted some of his clients were interested in the Lakeshore raceway in Toronto.

Prospective manager of the new raceway, Reg Booth, presently part owner of Edmonton International Speedway Park, was also at the meeting to answer questions.

"Are these cars bigger than at Mosport?" deputy-reeve Hill wanted to know.

Mr. Booth replied that the "Indy" type cars have more horsepower, but don't perform as well.

"How many cars do you start in a race?" asked councillor Russell Miller.

"The most we've started in Edmonton is 24", Mr. Booth answered. He went on to say that a normal 200 mile race would consist of 80 laps of the track and that cars would average 105 miles per hour for the 200 miles.

Mr. Booth explained that some dragsters develop up to 1,500 horsepower and race 1,320 feet in 6 1/2 seconds.

Mr. Goodman pointed out that the City of Edmonton had found that having the track added to safety on highways, since people no longer raced along highways at high speeds.

When Mr. Booth offered to fly any representative of council to Edmonton to see the track in



PLANS FOR A \$2 MILLION DOLLAR INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY, similar to the Edmonton International Speedway were unveiled by promoters at a special meeting of Esqueusing Township Council, Monday night. Promoters have purchased 240 acres of land near Milton between the Third and Fourth Lines, just north of Highway 401 and plan to construct a 1-3/4 mile oval track, as well as grandstands that will accommodate 30,000 spectators. The raceway will be in use approximately 45 days a year for both Indianapolis type racing and drag racing events. The picture above was taken the minutes before this year's Can-Am race in Edmonton.



EARTH MOVERS have been working daily on the former Matthews farm on the Fifth Line of Esqueusing, north of Highway 7, in preparation for the construction of a 3800 foot drag strip, which

267 lot subdivision

Township accuses Axler of "putting cart before horse"

Esqueusing Council accused Joe Axler of Axler-Palmer of "putting the cart before the horse". Monday night and insisted he reverse the situation before they put their stamp of approval on the firm's proposed housing subdivisions on the Eighth Line, just east of Silvercreek.

Mr. Axler had hardly begun to explain plans for the subdivisions when Reeve George Currie asked if the County Health Unit had approved the sewage system. When Mr. Axler indicated that he had not yet received such approval, Reeve Currie snapped back, "Well I'm afraid we're going to be through with you very shortly".

The reeve insisted Mr. Axler consult with the Health Unit first.

Mr. Axler told council he had presented plans to the township planning board last March 19. He agreed that the plans would have to be approved by the Health Unit, but asked that council first give their approval to the project so that he could have further studies undertaken.

"We've prepared to make Silvercreek a nice place to live", Mr. Axler continued. He claimed his subdivisions would cater to a large variety of needs, since the 267 lots were of several different sizes.

"How will you supply water?" Reeve Currie asked.

"We intend to supply water from a central well, but whatever means is satisfactory, to each and every lot", Mr. Axler replied. He also mentioned that there is an existing reservoir, belonging to the town of Georgetown near Highway 7.

Councillor Ken Marshall favored seeking further planning advice.

"I'm in sympathy with this, because one of the big needs today is housing, but I'd like to see this council get some up-to-date planning advice".

Referring to the drag strip presently under construction between the Fifth and Sixth Lines north of Highway 7, councillor Russell Miller asked, "Do you think people would want to build next to a drag strip?"

owner Carl Bristolow proposes. Residents of the area have flocked to meetings of Esqueusing council twice to protest the use of the land for a drag strip. —(Staff Photo)

Patrol treat

Safety patrolers—all 80 of them—will enjoy a Christmas evening together tomorrow (Thursday) in the Legion hall, with dinner, films and a short program. Service club donations will provide the treat for the boys and girls who guide their school buses safely across the streets each day.

Safety officer Roy Wood is arranging the event and school principals will have head table reservations.

Reeve orders movie camera out of chamber

Reeve George Currie ordered a cameraman from a nearby television station to take his movie camera and lighting equipment out of the council chamber, Monday night, at a special meeting of council.

The cameraman had just begun to assemble his lighting equipment in preparation for taking pictures of the large delegation, that had come to hear plans for a \$2 million dollar raceway in the southern end of the township, revealed, when the reeve popped to his feet and shouted, "As reeve of this township, I object, now get it out". The cameraman packed up his equipment and left quietly.

Last week the reeve refused Free Press photographer-reporter Denis Gibbons permission to photograph a similar delegation, that had come to voice their opposition to a proposed drag strip between the Fifth and Sixth Lines north of Highway 7. No vote of council was taken in either case.

WHAT COUNCIL DID

- At the regular meeting Tuesday night, Acton council:
 - Approved an increase of \$687.61 in the budget of Planning Board to offset the 1969 deficit.
 - Approved an increase of \$56.09 in the budget of the Committee of Adjustment to look after a deficit in that amount attributed to the number of applications dealt with during the year.
 - Registered no objection to severance of part of Lot 22 Plan 1098 in the matter of an application by William Finlay which will require a Committee of Adjustment hearing.
 - Approved in principle the proposed plan of subdivision of Revenues Properties on Churchill Road South provided 17 feet be given for widening the road and a pedestrian walk be deleted. A pedestrian walk was opposed.
 - Recommended a recommendation of a committee that Christmas trees at a cost of \$10 each. Reeve Currie motion. A councillor seconded the motion. A councillor moved that the O.P.P. also be considered. Councillor Chapman seconded the motion.
 - Jack Geer proposed for a snappy Christmas tree for the council chamber at the end of the year. Councillor McKinnon seconded the motion.

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