

Yugoslavs given another chance

The Yugoslavs are going to get another chance. Monday night Halton Hills councillors heard from Nick Cajic, president of the Canadian-Yugoslav Cultural Centre on Highway 25 south of Acton as well as three of the numerous residents in the area who were annoyed by loud music and noise at the recreation centre last summer.

Council decided to approve the Yugoslav application for a liquor licence for one of the two day Canada-Yugoslav Day celebrations on July 3-4. A few weeks ago councillors rejected the Yugoslav request for endorsement of the liquor licence for events this summer, pointing to the numerous noise complaints.

Before the town sends a letter to the LLBO the group will have to supply a letter from the six owners of the property stating who will be in charge of the event as well as the person responsible if there are noise complaints. Twice now Halton Hills has lost to the Yugoslav in court battles stemming from noise bylaw violation charges because the municipality couldn't establish who was responsible for the noise at the time of the infraction. Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson said a letter stating who is responsible if there is noise would be helpful, according to the town solicitor. To make a charge stick the town will also have to have someone on the site and another person off site hearing excessive noise at the same time.

Cajic said, following the council decision, that some councillors are only interested in enforcing the bylaw against the group on July 4, the date the permit was approved for. "They have put me in a corner," he said he will supply the town with the required information but didn't view the situation as a compromise. "We want to prove ourselves. There is no trust." He said they will have amplifiers on the site that day.

Spokesman for the neighbors, Gerald Brockelsby, said council "bent a little." He noted there have been no apologies from the Yugoslavs for past actions and they must now "produce concrete action showing they are serious" about reducing noise levels.

In a letter to council Cajic said the number of events this summer had been reduced from 16 to just five, the dates were June 20, July 3-4, July 18, August 1 and August 22. There would only be a few hundred people at the site on all the dates except the July 3-4 celebration when 2,000 to 4,000 people would attend. He said the "quantity of noise will obviously be lessened" by reducing the dates but warned they want to "bend the rules" for the July 3-4 events. He said they will try to keep noise down then but the "noise level may exceed the controlled level we hope to achieve."

Cajic named himself and four others, Miro Vucenic, Nedo Orbovic, Ziko Radojevic and Nusret Ljajic as being in charge of the events this summer and added one person, as yet unnamed, will exclusively be in charge of controlling music volume.

He told councillors if they wanted to reject the other dates that was possible but the July 3-4 event would proceed with or without a liquor licence. He said members are now well aware of the noise complaints and the seriousness of the problem and they just wanted another chance. He pledged co-operation and compromise. He said if there was noise any weekend besides July 3-4 he would be joining the neighbors in complaining and bands or individuals who turn up the music volume will be ejected.

He said he wanted to co-operate last year but wasn't given the time before he was charged and then had to defend himself. He said they can't afford

\$14,000 for a volume controller this year but likely will buy one next summer. Several councillors suggested if there were no amplifiers there'd be no problem and at least two residents who thought events would be acceptable without amplifiers. However, Cajic said an amplifier was necessary for July 3-4 but thought they might be dropped for other events because of cost of equipment and bands. He said they want to keep noise levels to audible 250 feet around the stage and no more. He noted the events have been cut back this year as a punishment for past problems to the community.

Morris Dalton who has property nearby and goes there on weekends despite the fact he lives in Georgetown suggested councillors go out and see how annoying the noise is on a Sunday afternoon. He called the Yugoslavs not "too neighborly" and noted they haven't lived up to commitments. He concluded the Yugoslavs don't deserve a second chance.

Another neighbor, Jim Johnson, questioned Cajic's "credibility" based on past performance and noted they still want to "bend the rules and haven't named the person responsible if there is noise. He said Cajic makes his group sound beyond his control.

Brockelsby told councillors the only problem has been noise and Cajic can't control his group. It was his problem to solve the noise concern.

Councillor Mike Armstrong suggested they be given permits for June 20 and July 3-4 and then the situation assessed. Repeatedly he warned Yugo-

slavs will bring their own liquor if there is no permit and the liquor has nothing to do with the noise. When June 20 was rejected by council he backed Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson's call for a July 4 trial.

Several times Councillor Pam Sheldon said Cajic hadn't changed her mind and there were no provisions for controlling noise yet. She said denying the permit was council's way of saying "we don't condone" the noise. Sheldon also said with all groups council should only approve liquor permits for one or two events at a time, not an entire season.

Councillor Walter Biehn's suggestion that the dates be approved without amplifiers allowed was ejected and Councillor Russ Miller observed Cajic and his people can't control the crowds and have done nothing to reduce noise. Serjeantson felt one date should be approved to give the Yugoslavs a chance to prove they can control the noise.

Councillor George Malby said the town needed the information to help make winning a conviction in court easier in the event there is noise and charges are laid.

Councillor Dave Whiting suggested residents call councillors who supported the July 4 permit in the event there is noise but Mayor Peter Pomeroy said the councillors, regardless of how they vote, are responsible to all taxpayers, including the Yugoslavs.

Councillors Terry Grubbe, Malby, Biehn, Ross Knechtel, Armstrong, Serjeantson and the mayor backed the one date while Sheldon, Harry Levy, John McDonald, Miller and Whiting were opposed.

Seek sign for Nor Halton Park

Regional Councillors Russ Miller and Dave Whiting want to see a sign directing tourists to Nor Halton Park at the junction of Highway 401 and 25 until the regional road number can be changed.

They met recently with the owner of the campgrounds, Merv Barber, Whiting reported this week. Barber had contacted him because people coming to his park who aren't familiar with the area are having difficulty because 25 Sideroad is signed as Regional Road 12.

People coming up Highway 25 come to 15 Sideroad at Speyside and figure they have gone too far for Regional Road 12. At the Guelph Line the road is still signed as 25 Sideroad. If they get as far up Highway 25 as 22 Sideroad, signed Regional Road 43, tourists are really confused.

Whiting noted he and Miller discussed the problem with regional staff and found the numbers go from south to north and the roads receive lower numbers based on their importance.

The councillors were told it will not be a quick process to change all the numbers, however staff suggested a sign at 401 and 25 paid for by the region giving directions. Whiting noted Barber finds this a suitable interim solution. Whiting added he hopes to see the region change their numbers to the same as they were formerly designated by area municipalities.

Hire student week

From this Saturday until June 19 it is Hire a Student Week in Halton Hills. Council passed the proclamation Monday night.



Bella Maye Roszell drew the Actario tickets Saturday.

Actario winners

Doug Vaughan, RR2 Acton, was the winner of the \$350 weekly Actario draw prize.

Wayne Aitken, RR3 Acton, won merchant vouchers from Stedman's, Acton Pharmacy and Acton Family Cleaners while Alice Pilkington and Wilmer Fryer of Acton went home with vouchers from IGA, Home Hardware, Family Restaurant and Family Cleaners. Vouchers from Nielsen's, Acton Photo and Camera, Ed's In 'N Out and AB Foodland were won by Pat Wood, 208 Elmore Dr., and Babe Roszell, Willow St. North, won vouchers from Jug City, Family Cleaners, Acton Bowling Lanes and Country Custom Upholstery.

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