

# Peace Camp charged for building new road without permit

International Peace Camp (IPC) is preparing a new, down sized, plan for development of the old Twin Lakes property just south of Speyside, but the ethnic-cultural organization is still being taken to court by the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) for building a new road without a development permit.

Thursday the NEC also learned Milton, which has jurisdiction over the part of the Town Line where the IPC is located, has never received an application or issued a road access permit for the new road. In a letter Milton indicated unless the NEC gave IPC a development permit on Thursday for the new road, then on August 10 the new entrance-exit onto the town line would be "Removed."

NEC staff urged legal action be taken against IPC. The road building was reported by neighbors on July 22 and 25, staff went out and inspected the new road on July 26.

The new road is just north of the main entrance-exit to the property, St. Helena's Rd., and runs parallel to the old road into the property for about 700 feet. The new road, which is about 10 feet wide, had been excavated and backfilled with crushed limestone.

Staff advised a representative of the Peace Camp who was present on the property that the driveway (new road) was

illegal. He responded that workmen had been directed to regrade the existing roadway only, but that a machine operator had constructed the new roadway of his "own accord," a staff report stated.

"Staff is particularly concerned in this instance, because the application for the proposed recreational development includes various roadway plans such as this second access, none of which should be developed until and unless the overall plan is approved. The development should not take place in a piece-meal fashion without appropriate provincial and municipal approvals."

The NEC also received a letter Thursday from Halton Hills urging "punitive" action be taken against IPC.

NEC member Raymond Lowes questioned why the whole IPC application hadn't been dealt with and was informed Halton Hills and the Ministry of Environment haven't commented yet. Staff noted this application will take time to process since IPC is such a big, complicated project.

Halton's NEC representative, Dave Whiting, said Halton Hills has concerns and conditions for dealing with this development and staff is trying to obtain a considerable amount of further information about the plans. Unfortunately, he said, IPC officials haven't been too co-operative yet in

providing the need additional information. Lowes charged that the NEC was engaged in a form of "harassment", that if IPC was being proposed somewhere else on the Escarpment and by different people it would be dealt with more quickly.

Whiting said he objected to Lowes' insinuation that there was prejudice and harassment taking place. He urged the NEC look very carefully at the IPC's proposal, warning Halton Hills has had a lot of problems with cultural-recreation centres. He said the NEC could find itself with the same kind of problems Halton Hills already has if it approves the IPC development too quickly.

Lowes suggested the IPC application could be "stalled forever" if that's what the municipality and staff had in mind.

Chairman Ivor McMillin said he too has asked about the delay in processing the whole IPC application, but agreed with Whiting that there were many features of the plan which must be examined closely. He noted Father Alberto Cunha had phoned and apologized for the building of the second road. He added he didn't feel IPC should be charged.

McMullin revealed IPC is "revising" its original plan "greatly", the size is being downgraded. NEC member Anne MacArthur recalled

IPC was already a recreation centre many years ago, Twin Lakes, and would have been allowed under old township zoning. She urged charges not be laid, noting charges aren't laid in all cases of work being done on land in the NEC area without a development permit.

A person would have to be a "complete idiot" to accept the IPC explanation that a worker just went ahead and built a new road exactly where they wanted one, without being asked to. "They're trying to pull the wool over our eyes."

McMullin noted the IPC application has been pending a long time and possibly the NEC should tell Halton Hills they've waited long enough and would like to settle the issue.

It was suggested that instead of pressing charges, IPC should simply be told that the NEC didn't condone their illegal action.

NEC regulations had to be "backed up with some teeth," Whiting declared. He noted this was the second time something had been done on the property without a development permit. A trailer had been placed on the property without a permit and only the threat of legal action resulted in it being finally removed. The IPC was "haunting the system" and would keep doing it "again, and again, and again."

Lowes countered the NEC was "haunting the system" by taking so long to process the application.

If the NEC acted too hastily it would wind up in the same position as Halton Hills in six months and the only way out of the mess then is costly legal action, Whiting claimed. Under Halton Hills zoning the IPC development wouldn't be allowed, Town zoning was changed because of the problems Halton Hills has had with similar operations elsewhere in the rural area. The only reason the IPC plan wasn't against Town zoning was because NEC controls take precedent. Halton Hills isn't the only municipality involved in the fight either. Milton has already gone on record as objecting to the plan. He added the property's former use for recreation didn't mean it was an existing use now.

The municipalities might have a different fight, but the only NEC concern should be was that work had been done without a permit, one member observed.

Planner Pat Boeckner said, after the NEC passed the motion to take legal action against IPC, that upon conviction the judge determines the penalty but legislation provides for a fine of up to \$10,000 or restoration of the property to its former state, or both.



## newsmakers

Georgetown/Acton, Wednesday, August 10, 1983



Pilots of the Great War Flying Museum, Brampton, practising formation flying over the city in full-size replica Fokker Triplane and Fokker D-VII Fighter Plane, in preparation for their August 14/83 Antique Fly-In, Brampton Airport.

### Raftis says

## Suspicious unfounded

A proposal to change the way Halton handles land severances doesn't deserve the suspicion with which northern communities regard it, according to Jack Raftis.

Mr. Raftis made that comment after regional council gave its approval to a recommendation stalling the proposed change for two months while an effort is made to "sell" it to local councillors.

"I know the northern communities are a little suspicious of this, but if 70 per cent of the applications can be approved without going on the agenda of one of these meetings then we'll be more efficient for everyone," he said.

Under the new system Halton's director of planning will be able to approve applica-

tions which meet all the requirements of the region's official plan and other laws.

Only those applications which conflict with the plans will have to go through the hearing process, a change which is expected to reduce the number of hearings by up to 70 per cent.

Councillors also approved a change to the proposal requiring all owners and residents within 125 metres of a proposed change to be informed of the plan and given a chance to express their views.

"This is one area where we should specify exactly what our policy is going to be," said Councillor Joan Little who put the amendment.

## No provincial funds for Reg. Gov. review

by Steve Arnold

At the end of its first decade, Halton Region should be capable of assuring its services are up to par without a helping hand from the provincial government.

That's the stand regional chairman Jack Raftis took last week as councillors debated the refusal of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to finance a review of regional governments in the province.

Halton's council had requested that review, but members admitted last week they were not surprised by the refusal to finance it.

Burlington Mayor Roly Bird, who first proposed the plan, said there has been a drastic shift in recent years of costs to the local level of government from the province and a detailed review of the operations of the region would show how severe that has been.

In his own area, he noted, studies have shown support from the province has fallen by 25 per cent in recent years.

"I don't think Claude Bennett (the minister) has heard the last of calls for a review

of regional government. I think it's here to stay, but there are always ways to improve it."

Raftis, however, argued if there are changes to be made to the structure of regional government, the review can be done here without assistance from the province.

"Any streamlining can best be done here because we know the configuration of the area municipalities," he said. "We can do a lot right here without having to wait for Claude Bennett."

"I think we're big enough to do it here by ourselves," he added. "We should go for it and examine all our services to see if they have improved or not."

A review, councillors agreed, would show up the positive accomplishments of regional government and the problems it has faced.

"There probably have been some significant positive steps," said Councillor Joan Little (Burlington). "We should show people where the region has been successful and show that it isn't the jolly green giant everyone thought it would be."

## Area teen off to Equador

Karoline Gottschild of Limehouse is going to use her upcoming three months in Equador to help her decide her future.

The 19-year-old Acton High School graduate leaves in a few weeks for the first leg of a six month exchange program with Canada World Youth. Her first posting will be three months somewhere in Ontario, probably in Bracebridge, Paris or St. Thomas.

The program involves Canadians 17 to 20 years-old from various social-economic backgrounds who represent the country fairly. In the meantime, youths from all over the world have also applied for the program. In Karoline's case, she will have an Equadorian counterpart who will be in Canada with her for the first three months. There are about 100 Ontario students taking part in this year's program.

The students will be working in the communities in which they are assigned. As yet, Karoline does not know what type of work she will be doing, but she suspects it may involve teaching, or building roads.

Participants were given a choice of heading out to Latin America, India or Africa. Karoline's first choice was Latin

America. Any countries with any political upheaval are not included in the program she noted.

Students must contribute \$200 or more to the program which goes into a common pot. From there the money is divided among all the members of the group in which she is a member. Karoline admits service clubs are encouraged to contribute to this \$200 or more and would appreciate any donations she can get.

A 1982 Ontario Scholar, Karoline attended the University of Toronto studying French, German, English and Zoology and Psychology. This summer she took a Spanish course, a language she will be perfecting in Equador.

Right now, Karoline says, her goals are undecided. She is majoring in languages with hopes of being a tour guide in Toronto, and while she has a summer job doing just that, she eventually hopes to get on weekend trips and maybe longer bus trips. But her future is vague and she hopes her six month experience will help her decide, just as it has helped many others.

Travelling is not new to Karoline. The daughter of Hurst and Jeanine Gottschild, RR 1 Limehouse, she moved to Canada from



Karoline Gottschild will spend three months in South America.

Germany in 1975. She has travelled extensively throughout Europe.

Karoline heard of the program through a friend who went to Indonesia last year and she became interested. She approached Acton High School counsellor Marg Tamblin and discussed the program before making her decision. Since then she hasn't looked back.

Canada World Youth has been sending students throughout the world for the past 12 years. Karoline's glad she is one of the thousands.

Karoline doesn't expect to be back home until the end of the program in March. Even though she won't be that far from home for the first three months, she doesn't think it would be fair to the Equadorians for her to pop home when they cannot. She hopes to meet her family at the airport before she heads south to drop off her winter clothing, something she is very pleased she won't be needing.

This weekend Karoline will be at a peer orientation in Toronto, at which time she will be giving a community profile of the area.

On September 8, she heads out, confident in knowing she'll learn a lot, and have a great time.

## White pine is named Ontario's tree

Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope said recently that he intends to introduce legislation naming the white pine the province's official tree starting in 1984.

White pine, which grows naturally in the most populated areas of Ontario, has a special historical significance. The British Royal Navy made ship masts from it, and the export of white pine timber from Ontario was a major source of income during the province's first 50 years.

Early settlers used white pine extensively for shelter, furniture, tools and even toys. Since then, it has continued to be used as a preferred forest product and is admired as a distinctive part of the Ontario landscape.

Mr. Pope said Ontario will be the first province to have an official tree. The initial move to find one began in 1980 with a proposal by the late James Auld to the Ontario Forestry Association when Mr. Auld was Natural Resources Minister.

"A tree council established for that purpose considered 30 different species before choosing the white pine as the most suitable. Of course, this will not supplant the importance of the trillium—our official flower," Mr. Pope said.

He said that he believed a significant cottage industry producing carvings and mementoes could be developed from this tree of "outstanding and characteristic beauty."



The stately white pine has been named Ontario's tree.

## Retraining allowance lower than welfare

Unemployed people receiving training allowances from the federal government are being paid less than they would receive on welfare and that is wrong, according to regional councillors.

Members took that stand last week in supporting a resolution from the City of Windsor calling for a change in current laws.

Under the current system, municipal welfare pays a man with dependents a maximum of \$724 a month. If the same were on a retraining program, he would receive an allowance of only \$620 a month.

Under the current law, the municipality

cannot provide any support for people receiving such allowances, noted social services director Debbie Oakley in a report.

The Windsor resolution would change the system to allow those in retraining programs to receive the full welfare-rate with a minimal cost to the municipality.

Despite the support being expressed for the idea, however, the provincial and federal governments, which fund education, welfare and the retraining programs, have expressed little interest in changing the system.