

# Rock festival held but on different site

The "A Third Colossal Gathering of Friends Music Festival" was held in Halton Hills Saturday night, but on the First Line not the corner of the Fifth Line and Highway 7 as planned.

Halton Hills had obtained an injunction preventing the concert on the Fifth Line on Friday afternoon, despite being informed Wednesday the show was cancelled.

There was a sign on the gate to the Fifth Line property on Saturday stating the show had been cancelled. Somehow though, word of mouth likely, many of the ticket holders knew the concert had been secretly moved to a property on the First Line, just below Highway 7.

Inspector Matt McPherson of the Halton Regional Police, explained the police who had been watching the Fifth Line property followed some of the ticket holders who were showing up and they were going to the First Line.

Apparently the person renting this farm had given his permission for a "private party" to be held on the property.

However, when he found out what was really taking place he contacted police and made them his agent to control the situation.

McPherson explained there were already about 200 people on the property by then so all the police could do was block off the First Line and turn further rock fans away. He said about 600 ticket holders were turned away.

Some booked bands apparently played and the festival lasted until after 2 a.m. Sunday.

No charges were laid and police didn't go on the property because there were no problems and the situation was under control. He said there were no noise complaints from neighbors lodged with police.

It is widely reported there were 2,000 tickets for this show available and most were sold in the city, though in the past couple of weeks they started surfacing in Halton Hills.

The promoters of the show, Farm House Productions, are two young men from Mississauga. Tuesday they finally met with Town staff to try and work things out.

Their approach to the Town was prompted by the Town staff's and police investigation of the mysterious rock festival

which lasted well over a week.

Tuesday night council authorized the solicitor and staff to seek an injunction to prevent the show. Mayor Peter Pomeroy said festivals aren't welcomed, adding once they are underway it's hard for police to go on the property and control the situation.

He said the Town wanted an injunction which would cover all of Halton Hills, but Bylaw Enforcement Officer Jack Lusty reported Friday afternoon the Ontario Supreme Court granted an injunction which was good only on the property on the north-east corner of the Fifth Line and Highway 7. Police were on the scene Saturday to enforce the injunction.

The festival was originally planned for Hillsburgh area on July 4, but the property owner who was renting the land backed out at the last minute. With bands booked and equipment rented, it was rescheduled in Halton Hills for this past Saturday.

Farm House Productions had held two previous festivals in Milton, but they were much smaller affairs than the one planned for Saturday.

The promoters told the Town they felt as long as the show was on private property no permits were needed.

However, they didn't really have permission to use the land at the Fifth Line and Highway 7. It is owned by an estate and the trustees didn't give permission, though an individual who may inherit from the estate give unauthorized permission. Also no permission had been sought from the farmers who are renting and working the property.

Councillor Russ Miller told his colleagues last week rock festivals weren't something the Town wanted to encourage, adding he had received some calls already about it.

The Town went ahead with the injunction when it didn't receive word in writing that the show had been cancelled.

Arrangements to have the show on the First Line property were apparently made late last week police said.

At press time there was no word as yet about what, if any, action the municipality might take regarding the concert having been held.

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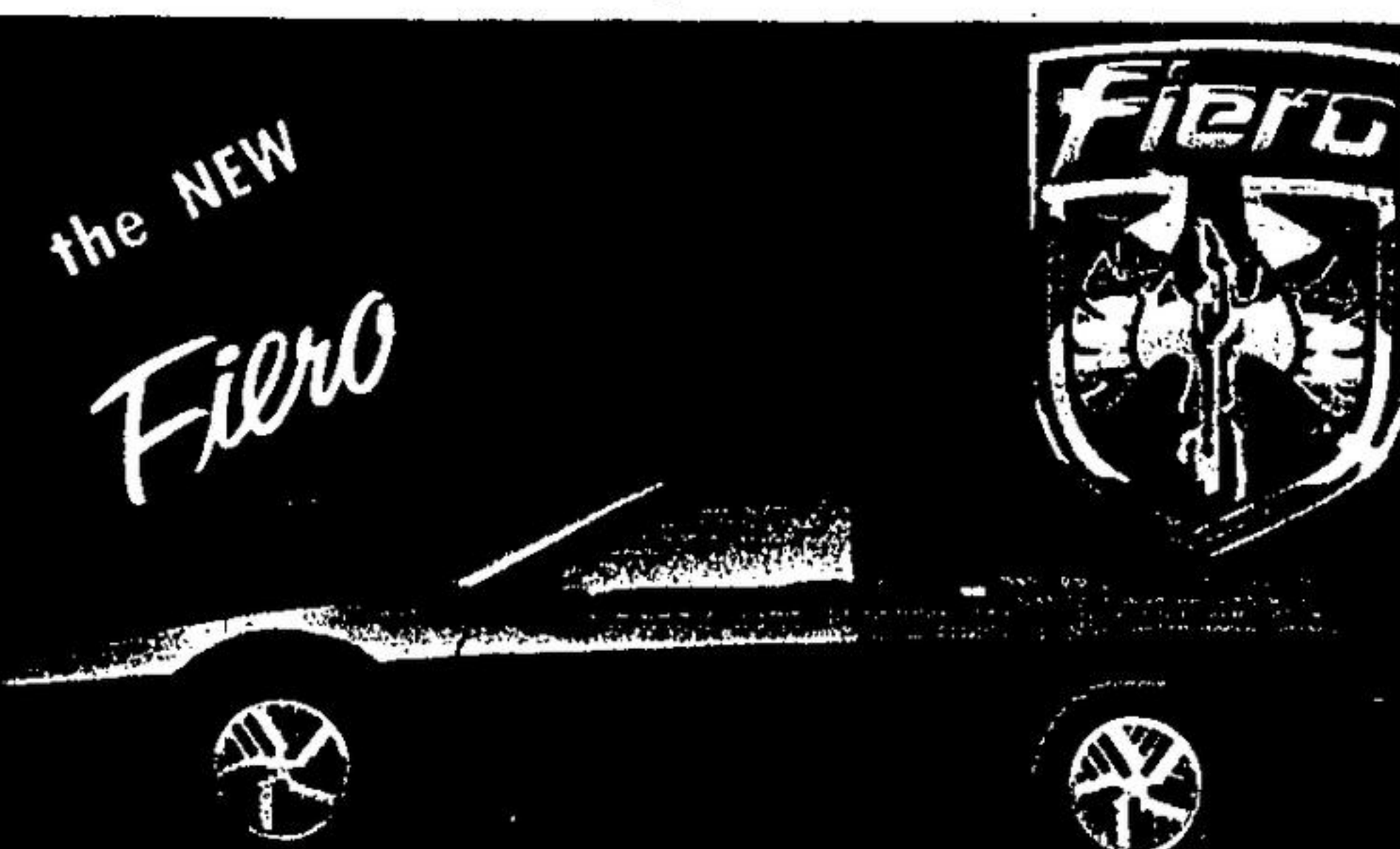
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