

NEC, town will to investigate riding operation

Representatives of the town and Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) are to investigate a commercial horse-back riding operation in RR1 Georgetown for possible land use bylaw infractions.

Neighbors of the operation who cited six contraventions of NEC-imposed conditions of approval at last Tuesday's council meeting are currently awaiting the outcome of a June 15 hearing before the provincial ministry of housing at which their concerns were outlined.

A suggestion that Mayor Pete Pomeroy should be censured for his previous comments on the matter accompanied a brief presented to council by Michael Mooney, spokesman for seven families whose properties surround the 400-acre horse ranch owned and operated by Annette Milne of Lot 31, Concession 10, north of Georgetown.

In a brief which asked council to withdraw its support of Mrs. Milne's application for an NEC development permit, the neighbors listed concerns about the intensity of the horse-back riding operation and the NEC's ability to enforce its conditions of approval.

MALTY PRAISED
The brief also challenged the accountability of councillors who support "this type of development without consulting or notifying the adjacent landowners," Coun. George Maltby, however, was praised in the brief "for fulfilling his responsibilities in representing a group of concerned people in his ward."

The neighbors expressed their desire to censure the mayor "for at the very least his lack of judgement and inappropriate comments as reported in the local newspaper."

Mr. Mooney informed council that he and his neighbors first objected to "the develop-

ment of this property in a commercial manner" early in 1978 when they observed construction was underway without a building permit having been granted.

There was no formal objection filed with appropriate authorities, however, since the neighbors were told that Mrs. Milne intended to move her operation elsewhere the following spring. Nevertheless, Mr. Mooney said, landowners watched construction begin on two agricultural buildings for which permits had still to be granted.

The neighbors informed the ministry of housing at a preliminary hearing last July that Mrs. Milne's implement shed was still standing despite an order to remove it prior to May 31. The hearing held last August saw several limitations imposed regarding the size and location of proposed activities.

"A compromise was achieved with Mrs. Milne," Mr. Mooney said. "The hearing officer's report recommended allowing development. However, the minister of housing over-ruled the recommendation and added several restrictions in the Notice of Decision we received in late January, 1979."

NO INTENTION
A month later, though, the objecting neighbors concluded that Mrs. Milne "had no intention of adhering to the conditions" of approval and asked the ministry to rescind its permit.

A third hearing was held last month in response to the same neighbors' objections against an April, 1979, development permit application filed by Mrs. Milne for "construction that was underway, one building which had been completed and in addition expanded the size and scope of the development," Mr. Mooney said.

With the outcome of that

hearing still to come, he added, construction has now begun on a proposal to relocate a tennis court on the property, again without permit approval.

"Mrs. Milne's commercial activities will be intensive, not non-intensive as permitted under the NEC plan and their development permit," Mr. Mooney contended.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy and Coun. Roy Booth explained to Mr. Mooney that the town has little say about applications before the NEC. The town's planning department is routinely invited to comment on such applications, Coun. Booth said, but his recommendations are usually not submitted to

council.

"I've been really involved in the Milne matter," Coun. Booth, an NEC member said. "I can assure you that the owner has conformed to all portions of everything the NEC asked for. There was a problem with the swimming pool, and they had to re-apply after the NEC stopped construction. And I don't know why you'd want to censure the mayor; he's only upholding the laws of the municipality."

WON DECISIONS
Coun. Booth suggested that any complaints the neighbors have about the Milne property should be brought to the NEC's attention, since the Commission has "an adequate enforcement record and has won numerous decisions in the courts."

Coun. Booth said he had never seen any of the letters sent to NEC staff and chairman Ivor McMullin by the neighbors, prompting Mr. Mooney to comment that "problems with the NEC must be 'deeper' than suspected if commissioners are not receiving copies of all correspondence."

Mayor Pomeroy suggested that quotes attributed to him in the press may have been misinterpreted, leading the neighbors to recommend his censure. To Coun. Maltby's remark that intensive farming operations could be considered

commercial ventures, the mayor explained, he had responded that those who live in agricultural areas "run the risk" of having to live near high-intensity operations.

"You can't censure me for making a public statement," he said.

Mr. Mooney explained that the neighbors have no objections to the type of land use found on the Milne property, but the intensity of the uses, compounded by the fact that owner is charging customers \$5.50 an hour to ride horses around the property.

"We appreciate that the NEC is the authority in this matter, but we'd like council to take an interest," he said.

"We'd like to see this matter heard from both sides instead of us just becoming subject to a paper shuffle."

NO DISTURBANCE

Both Mayor Pomeroy and Coun. Russ Miller noted that they were unaware of the neighbors' concerns until recently. Coun. Miller added that he has lived beside the Milne property for some time and has yet to be disturbed by any operations there.

"You're living in a no-man's land as far as the Ontario government is concerned," Mayor Pomeroy told Mr. Mooney sympathetically.

Coun. Booth said the problems associated with municipal control of NEC land consti-

tute "a temporary situation." "We're working very hard to get this land back into the hands of the municipalities," he said of the NEC. "We always pay attention to what the municipalities want (when considering development applications)."

Mayor Pomeroy noted that NEC conditions attached to the Milne application allow for the care of 26 horses and for the staging of three commercial overnight camps.

At the urging of councillors Booth and Mike Armstrong, the neighbors' brief was referred to the town planning department and the NEC for investigation of the charges raised.

Vandalism officers named

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

Halt Regional Police force is moving towards creation of a Crime Prevention Bureau with the appointment of officers to act as "vandalism co-ordinators."

Deputy-Chief James Harding, acting chief, told the police commission Thursday that he had appointed officers in each of the three districts in Halt to co-ordinate reports on incidents of vandalism, compile statistics, and study the effectiveness of different approaches to the problem of vandalism. The officers will also be acting as liaison officers with community agencies and other groups which become involved in studies of vandalism.

The deputy-chief's comments were part of a report which he prepared at the request of the commission following its last meeting, when a letter was received from Burlington Mayor Roly Bird, requesting a meeting with the commission to discuss the results of the study on vandalism in Burlington conducted by the Regional Social Planning Council.

Statistics indicate that there were 749 incidents of vandalism reported in Halt in the first three months of 1979. Deputy Chief Harding said, with estimated damage of \$114,609.91.

FIRST STEP
The deputy-chief said, the appointment of vandalism co-ordinators is the first step towards what he hopes will be the formation of a crime prevention bureau. However, be-

cause of a shortage of resources, he said he is unable to appoint a full-time crime prevention officer.

Mayor Bird said that while the council's study advocated the use of foot patrols in areas with a high incidence of vandalism, the council was aware of the problems involved in such a project.

"We're aware of the costs involved, and we're not asking that every police officer get out of his car and patrol on foot," he said.

"The city also wants to encourage police to arrest, rather than warn, repeated offenders," Mayor Bird said. Deputy-Chief Harding said there are pilot projects at work in some areas where juveniles, and adults, who have been identified as offenders are offered the opportunity to participate in a voluntary work program, taking part in community service. Such programs can also be made part of a term of probation for an offender who has been convicted of vandalism.

Judge Joseph Seime said that it is important for police officers and crown attorneys to bring the offenders before the courts as quickly as possible, so as to provide a greater deterrent to vandals.

"I think we, as a board, and I as a citizen, and a member of the judiciary, are all concerned with the problem of vandalism," he said. He pointed out that the victims of vandalism can make a petition to the court that an order of restitution be issued against a person convicted of an act of vandalism on their property.

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This two-storey contemporary design, finished in brick veneer and heavy shake roof, offers the larger family a fine variety of luxury appointments and abundant space for gracious living.
The large and open L-shape kitchen-nook combination has the free-standing work island feature, which creates an excellent work triangle, as well as offering great eye-appeal. The nook for casual dining connects to the rear patio via sliding glass doors.
Two steps take you down from the nook into the sunken family room with corner fireplace and wood storage, and sliding doors onto the patio. The fireplace has the built-in barbecue feature on the patio side.
Adjoining the kitchen is a large utility room with storage space and vanity bathroom. The utility room has a laundry folding counter and space for the development of an office/library for the dedicated homemaker. This area is also easily accessible to the garage which, in combination with a garage workbench, would be a convenient place for dad's do-it-yourself guides.

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