## NEC, town will to investigate riding operation

Representatives of the town and Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) are to in--vestigate a commercial horseback riding operation in RR1 Georgetown for possible land use bylaw intractions.

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 pf Georgetown, . .

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

MALTBY PRAISED The brief also challenged the accountability of councillors John support "this type of development without consult-Ing 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 newspap-

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

By LORI TAYLOR

Herald staff writer

Halton Regional Police force

is moving towards creation of

a Crime Prevention Bureau

with the appointment of offi-

cers to act as "vandalism

Deputy-Chief James Hard-

ing, acting chief, told the po-

lice commission Thursday that

he had appointed officers in

each of the three districts in

Halton 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 offic-

ers with community agencies

and other groups which be-

come involved in studies of

. The deputy-chief's comments were part of a report

which he prepared at the re-

quest of the commission foll-

owing its last meeting, when a

letter was received from Burlington Mayor Roly Bird, re-

duesting a meeting with the

commission to discuss the re-

sults of the study on vandalism

In Burlington conducted by the

Begional Social Planning

Statistics indicate that there

were 749 incidents of vandal-

ism reported in Halton in the

first three months of 1979,

Deputy Chief Harding said,

with estimated damage of

FIRSTSTEP

The deputy-chief said, the

appointment of vandalism co-

ordinators is the first step

the formation of a crime pre-

vention bureau. However, be-

co-ordinators".

vandalism.

Council.

\$114,609.91.

Vandalism

officers named

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 activilles.

"A compromise was achieved with Mrs. Milne," Mr. Mooney said. "The hearing officer's report recommended against 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

case of a shortage of resourc-

es, he said he is unable to

appoint a full-time crime pre-

the council's study advocated

the use of foot patrols in areas

with a high incidence of van-

dalism, the council was aware

of the problems involved in

"We're aware of the costs

"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 of-

fered the opportunity to parti-

cipate in a voluntary work

program, taking part in com-

munity service. Such programs can also be made part

of a term of probation for an

offender who has been convict-

Judge Joseph Scime 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

"I think we, as a board, and I

as a citizen, and a member of

the judiciary, are all concerned with the problem of vandal-

ism," he said. He pointed out

that the victims of vandalism

can make a petition to the

court that an order of restitu-

convicted of an act of vandal-

ism on their property.

deterrent to vandals.

ed of vandalism.

involved, and we're not asking

that every police officer get

out of his car and patrol on

Mayor Bird said that while

vention officer.

such a project.

foot," he said.

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

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

"Eve 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 enforce-

ment 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 "eren deeper" than sugpected if commissioners are not receiving copies of all correspondence.

Mayor Pomeroy suggested that quotes attributed to him in the press may have been mis interpreted, 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.

Mitchell

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"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 probtems associated with municipal control of NEC land consti-

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lute "a temporary situation". "We're working very hard toget this land back into the hands of the municipalities," he said of the NEC. "We always pay attention to what the municipality wants (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 camp-outs. 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.

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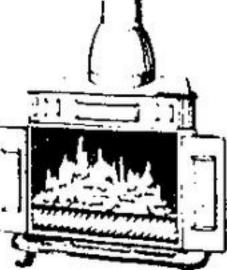
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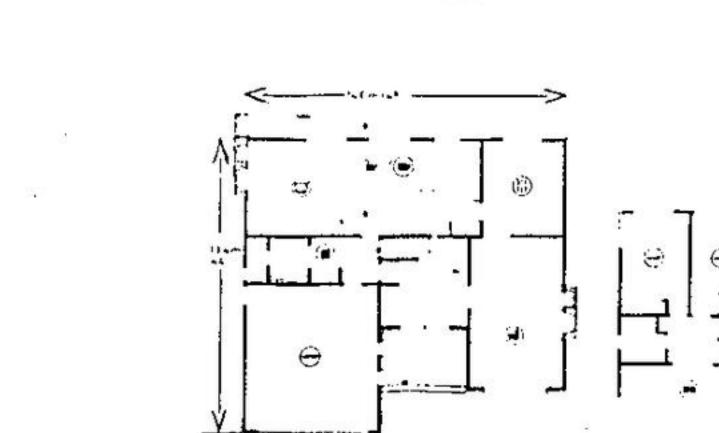
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