

Acton centre's heads 'tired of being pushed around' by town

Yugoslav noise issue may go before OHRC

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Canadian-Yugoslavian Cultural Association president Nick Cajic says his group is tired of "being pushed around" by Halton Hills council and if some agreement isn't reached over noise levels at the Association's recreation centre south of Acton, the issue may be brought before the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Monday night council determined that liquor licences requested by the

association for Aug. 15, 22 and 29 would be endorsed only with promises that no public address systems will be used. Mr. Cajic told reporters later that the town's restrictions at the centre may cost the Association \$20,000 in lost revenues.

HAD SYSTEM

Some members of his group, he said, want to sue the town to get the money back.

"It's not proper to be pushed so far," he said, expressing concern that the relationship between

the Association and the town may be seriously compromised by council's public address stipulation on the liquor licence application. Members of the committee operating the centre have suggested presenting their case to the human rights board.

Unless the town receives a letter signed by Mr. Cajic assuring that the entertainment later this month won't be amplified, it will refuse to send council's endorsement of the liquor licence to the province.

Coun. Russ Miller wanted council to reject the application entirely, noting that organizers of another celebration at the centre July 18 used public address systems even though they were asked not to under a previous agreement with the town.

It was the third event at the Yugoslavian Centre this summer. Located about two miles south of Acton on Highway 25, it is near a number of rural homes, the residents of which have complained

about noise levels at the centre during various celebrations.

Charges laid against Mr. Cajic and a fellow Association member last year under the town's noise bylaw failed to stand up in court earlier this year. A judge determined that without guidelines, it is difficult to assess what is a legally improper noise level.

Councillors refused to grant a blanket endorsement of numerous liquor licences this summer and has been dealing with the

noise level was loud.

During the July 18 event, he was approached by organizer Mike Vuclinc and asked whether or not the noise level was loud.

"I feel I'm being backed into a corner," Mr. Brockelsby said, "forced into accepting a certain level of noise."

He claimed that the question of whether or not there would be noise at the centre from one Sunday to another carries a certain amount of "anxiety" for residents.

"It's difficult to do anything on Sundays without knowing if there's going to be loud noise that's aggravating," Mr. Brockelsby said.

Mr. Cajic explained that his Association is an umbrella body for several smaller groups, some of which use the centre free of charge, others paying a fee. Although responsible for the festivities July 18 along with Mr. Vuclinc, he agreed with Coun. Dave Whiting that there was a "breakdown in communications" interpreting council's "no public address system" condition.

Meanwhile, he said continuing problems the Association is having in getting council's endorsement

of liquor licences has eroded his faith people have in the cultural centre's organization. Some have stopped contributing money to it he noted, and they are increasingly unhappy that they can't have unrestricted use of the centre. Mr. Cajic pleaded with council to give him more time to work out the problems surrounding the use of the public address system and said he is gradually getting more control over celebrants who are tampering with the system's controls.

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COUNCIL NOTES

New parking idea rejected

A new parking bylaw proposed by Acton Coun. Dave Whiting failed to get much support from fellow councillors Monday night. Coun. Whiting suggested that new regulations should restrict overnight parking on side streets in town only during the winter. Currently cars may park along the roadside for three-hour periods at night during the summer. However, councillors instructed town engineer Bob Austin to look at implementing varying roadside parking rules according to neighborhoods. "Site specific" parking regulations may be preferable to a general parking bylaw, councillors argued.

The Last Coat

Driving to work along Guelph Street may get a little smoother. Town engineer Bob Austin told councillors Monday night that Fer-Mar Paving Ltd. of Mississauga was expected Tuesday morning to start laying the last coat of asphalt in the recently-reconstructed stretch of Guelph Street between Mountainview Road and Sinclair Avenue. No date has been set for the company to begin the last asphalt job on Dayfoot Drive, which was reconstructed last year.

Works on the way

Backhoes will be moving into a couple of Georgetown and Acton neighborhoods shortly as the region replaces aging water mains in the areas. New mains will be installed on Wesleyan and Market Streets in an L-shaped line stretching from Main Street to Church Street. In Acton, 170 metres of new 150-millimeter diameter watermain will be laid along Mill Street from Cobblehill Road. Additional piping will be constructed below Willow Street between Mill and Church Streets. Work is to begin Monday and is scheduled to end Sept. 24.



ROLL 'EM!

Lights, camera, action. Georgetown's director in training David Lowe (inset) is in the throes of rehearsals again for a second film being shot in his hometown. Last Wednesday night he was on Reid Court shooting some outdoor shots with his Super 8 camera. A photographic arts student at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, 19-year old David is calling his second attempt at filming "An Image Too Many". It features local talents.

(Herald photos by Dave Rowney)

Supervisors criticized over drownings

Town sticks up for its Acton lifeguards

By ANI FEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

"I find it a bit unfair that automatically the first assumption is that it my staff's fault," recreation department head Tom Shepard told The Herald Thursday, responding to criticism and "innuendoes" in parts of the Toronto media about the four lifeguards on duty when two boys drowned in Fairy Lake last Monday afternoon.

The bodies of Brent Patey and Nick Dimic, both seven, were discovered about 20 feet from the buoyed swimming area. "I would hope as much coverage is given when the facts are brought in as is being given now to unbacked comments," he said.

Mr. Shepard maintained events leading up to the drowning would all come out in the coroner's inquest, a date for which has not been announced by Dr. A.E. MacIntosh.

"It's very very frustrating having to work (at Fairy Lake) because you have no control over who comes or goes or who uses it as a 'babysitting service', leaving their kids there," Mr. Shepard said.

If people were honest with themselves they would agree that children are left at Prospect Park without parental supervision, he added.

"You question, 'Where

are the parents?' 'Who is looking after these kids?' " Mr. Shepard said. "People just send their kids down because it's a large multi-purpose playground, and I question how many parents know what their children are doing down there."

He said there's more unsupervised area at the park than supervised, and more people are outside the supervised area.

"Some people go outside the supervised area to get the ire of the lifeguards," he said, remarking that one of the major complaints lifeguards bring to staff meetings is the taunting of the lifeguards.

Lifeguards have no authority to throw such people out of the park or water, he said.

Acknowledging some swimmers like to 'deep dive' and swim in waters deeper than the three feet maximum depth of the supervised, buoyed area, Mr. Shepard said he appreciated the fact that good swimmers want to swim beyond the boundaries.

"But we don't have control out there," he said.

"I feel quite confident in the staff we have and the facts that are being gathered," Mr. Shepard said. "Our staff will be vindicated when all the

facts come out," he maintained. A recreation department investigation is still underway of the circumstances connected with the drownings. No details have been released yet as to how the boys drowned.

"Procedures we have for clearing the water and training for deep water searches are certainly in line and proper," Mr. Shepard said. "I can only stress I believe the staff acted accordingly and did their job right."

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BIG BOOST

During a recent motorcycle cruise to raise money in the fight against cancer, Betty Bot (right) and her husband Peter (not shown) managed to raise \$820 for the Halton Hills branch of the Cancer Society. The Bots participated in a 300-mile trek through Canada and the U.S. on their 750-cc bike and during the event Mrs. Bot won top prize for being the passenger who collected the largest number of sponsors. Mrs. Bot, shown with cancer campaign reps "Steamer" Emerson and Julie White, are members of the Retreads motorcycle group. (Herald photo by Dave Rowney)

Trim floodplain to riverbanks, Glen residents urge council

Convinced there are still a few hitches in the Credit Valley Conservation Authority's new floodplain mapping, Georgetown developer Al Piliutti prompted town council Monday night to call for a public meeting at which the Authority could explain its updated regulations.

In addition, the Authority will be asked to review its "cut and fill" lines proposed for the banks of the Credit and the ravines of its numerous tributaries cutting through Georgetown and Esqueping.

Armed with signatures of about 50 Glen Williams homeowners whose properties he said are adversely affected by redrawn floodplain lines, Mr. Piliutti argued that the lines are already too ex-

tensive and should be trimmed to the banks of the river.

Choose work sharing

Two Georgetown firms have signed work sharing agreements with the federal government this month in order to avoid 38 temporary lay-offs. Twin-Cee Ltd. of Georgetown's Armstrong Avenue has signed an agreement involving 24 employees to avoid ten temporary lay-offs.

A second agreement involves 108 employees of the Frank Heller and Company operations in Georgetown and Acton to avoid 28 lay-offs.

Under worksharing, the employees agree to work one to three fewer days a week to prevent temporary lay-offs. They receive unemployment insurance benefits for the days not worked. For most workers, the combination of wages and UIC benefits amount to 90 per cent of their regular weekly salaries.

While rivers rarely overflow their banks covering the full extent of the

floodplain, even during severe rainstorms or spring thaws, Authority guidelines restrict nearby development to cut down on the potential for property damage and loss of life.

The Authority carried out its last mapping of the Credit River watershed 15 years ago. The latest effort (which began about five years ago and was recently completed) used vastly improved techniques to determine floodplains along the river and its tributaries, shrinking the floodplain in some areas and enlarging it in others.

Mr. Piliutti also suggested that the Authority find out how much it would cost to thoroughly re-channel the Credit River through

Glen Williams to ensure that homes won't be flooded again. Extensive "channelization" work has already been completed in the area to reduce flooding hazards related to the annual spring thaw.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy concurred that there were some problems in the town's official plan about open space areas in Esqueping because of the CVCA's new mapping and cut and fill lines.

The cut and fill line refers to an imaginary boundary separating a private property from the river or a tributary. Concerned about the eroding effects on waterways, the Authority tightly controls development along this boundary.

About 40 per cent of the Georgetown homes built adjacent to ravines are affected by the new cut and fill rules, Mr. Piliutti said.

"All we want is at least a fair hearing," he said, "to find out the impact of the new cut and fill regulations and the Credit River floodplain."

"I'm concerned, too, about erosion. But my actions in town have never caused an erosion problem in the Credit River."

Mr. Piliutti maintained that the Authority should have the "rights of the citizen spelled out in black and white regarding development on the floodplain and near the cut and fill lines."

Personal appeals to Authority staff for changes in the maps, he claimed, have been ignored.

A date for the public meeting has not yet been set.

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SUCCESS STORY

Ah, how sweet it is. While husband Roy looks on proudly, Rosa Bradley of Durham Street samples the commemorative cake prepared last week for the couple's 50th wedding anniversary. The lifelong Georgetown residents had family and friends over Sunday for a well-deserved party and told The Herald that in 50 years together they've had their ups and downs, but the marriage has been sound and good. Attesting to its success are the couple's four children - Joan Butterworth, Janice Dixon, Lynn Oakley and John Bradley - plus eleven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A big congratulations to Roy and Rosa. (Herald photo by Harold Branch)



FUTURE CHANNEL SWIMMER?

Possibly considering a swim across the English channel alongside Clady Nicholas of Toronto (who'll make her final attempt this summer) is this young tyke from Halton Hills, enjoying a cool dip in a local pool. The expressions on his face suggest he's not as water-wise as

Clady, but the unidentified youngster was obviously having a good time. As The Herald went to press yesterday, the area's mid-July hot spell yielded to a deluge of rain.

(Herald photos)

Rest home inquiry is requested

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Claiming that the democratic process is being subverted by fellow regional councillors and staff members, Milton Coun. Bill Johnson has called for a judicial inquiry into the recently tempestuous relationship between Halton's health department and Cher's Rest Home in Acton.

Last Wednesday, Coun. Johnson stormed out of a regional council meeting after councillors rejected his idea for a committee to look into allegations that health department staff have been harassing Cher's administrators. Council agreed with chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin that to conduct its own investigation at the moment might conflict with a planned coroner's inquest into the recent death of a former Cher's resident.

A few days after he was admitted to Guelph General Hospital from Cher's to treat sores the unidentified resident died, Mr. Perlin said in a report to council last week. He said that a sub-committee investigation shouldn't begin until the "decks are cleared" concerning the circumstances of the man's death.

But Coun. Johnson maintains that Mr. Perlin's report is only clouding the harassment issue and furthering a "whispering campaign" which is ending.

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