

NEC to prosecute Peace Camp

Herald Special

Despite comments that the International Peace Camp was being treated differently from others applying for development permits from the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the commission finally decided to prosecute the property owners for violations of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act.

Commission staff reported an illegal road being built from the Milton-Halton Hills town line 700 feet into the interior of the camp at Lot 13 and 14, Con. 1, Halton Hills. The violations were brought to the staff's attention by neighbors on July 22 and 23.

Staff found the existing roadway had also been excavated and backfilled with crushed stone. Both roads are illegal since no work can be done in the area without a development control permit.

Milton town public works, which has jurisdiction over that section of the town line, also informed the commission saying that no permit had been applied for to build an access onto the municipal road.

Unless the commission was granting a development permit to the IPC the town would go in and remove the illegal access by Aug. 10.

Staff told the commission comments from Halton Hills and the mil-

stry of environment had not been received and that was why the application was not before the commission to deal with.

NEC chairman Ivor McMullin suggested the bodies should be told to get their comments in or the application would be dealt with anyway, while vice-chairman Anne MacArthur felt no legal action should be taken against the violations.

Ms. MacArthur said since the old zoning prior to the imposing of development control by the commission would have permitted a recreational use she did not want to prosecute a group pursuing such a use.

Halton Hills commissioner David Whiting pointed out that the present Halton Hills zoning and Milton zoning would both prohibit a recreational use. The old recreational use stopped several years ago and even the grandfather clause would not permit recreation in that area under the present zoning.

Mr. Whiting said both Milton and Halton Hills had passed resolutions asking the commission to take legal action on the violations.

Halton Hills planning staff had made no comment to the commission about the application because they had received no reply from IPC organizers about concerns staff raised about

the project.

"The organizers know full well they need permits to do anything there," he said. "And they are ignoring that. The town has had some bad times with recreational centres like this and if the commission isn't careful they'll be in the same position, with no way out but a long expensive law suit. They're flaunting the whole system."

Mr. McMullin said IPC spokesman Rev. Alberto Cunha told him by telephone that the group had ordered regrading of the existing road and the contractor had gone ahead without instructions and built the second road nearby.

Mr. Whiting termed the story "trying to pull the wool over the commission's eyes."

Staff planner Pat Boeckner said the IPC has said they will be submitting a new, much lower density, develop-

ment application for the site known once as Twin Lakes. So far that new proposal has not appeared.

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Guelph Mercury

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