

Ballinafad resident backs into NEC approval

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

Ballinafad area resident Nancy Mulholland received approval from the Niagara Escarpment Commission Thursday to build a pumphouse on her farm despite taking a backwards approach to the process.

In accordance with NEC guidelines, Ms. Mulholland was supposed to approach the commission to obtain a development permit before building the pumphouse.

NEC guidelines stipulate a development permit is required to construct a building in an agricultural area on the Escarpment if the building's location is less than 300 feet from the middle of the roadway running alongside the property.

According to an NEC staff report, the Mulholland pumphouse is located less than 300 feet from the the Eighth Line, which runs along the Mulholland property. Therefore a development permit was required.

Neighboring property owner Kent McClure, who spoke at Thursday's commission meeting, unsuccessfully used this apparent

discrepancy to try to persuade the commission to postpone issuing the development permit.

Mr. McClure argued NEC staff should do a site inspection of the building before consideration is given to the issuing of a development permit.

Mr. McClure is concerned the pumphouse operation could have a negative impact on his well.

NEC staff recommended the development permit be issued because the building meets all health and servicing requirements, and won't have a negative impact on the surrounding environment.

Ms. Mulholland told commissioners the building was constructed without the permit because she was under the impression a permit wasn't required.

Ms. Mulholland said officials with the Town of Halton Hills informed her no permits were required to construct the building.

Mr. McClure, however, questioned Ms. Mulholland's lack of knowledge about the need for a development permit?

He referred to a May 12, 1989 letter addressed to the NEC, a copy of which was obtained by the Herald, in which family member James

Mulholland indicates he is aware of the 300-foot distance requirement. Mr. Mulholland was writing the letter in reference to the construction of a broodmare stable.

Mr. Mulholland correctly pointed out in the letter, a NEC development permit wasn't needed to build the stable because, among other things, it was located more than 300 feet from the roadway.

Contacted Monday, Ms. Mulholland refused to comment on any aspect of the pumphouse application until she had dealt directly with the commission over its approval process.

During a telephone interview following Thursday's NEC meeting, Mr. McClure questioned why Mr. Mulholland's 1989 letter to the NEC wasn't included in the

staff report regarding the pumphouse?

NEC Senior Planner David Johnson said, the letter wasn't included because it dealt with a different application.

He added, as soon as NEC staff informed the Mulholland family about the need to obtain a development permit for the pumphouse an application was made.

Parenting Tips

Georgetown Parent-Child Centre

Creating a positive image

By VALERIE CUNNINGHAM
R.N., Herald Special

Last time we talked about creating positive self-esteem in our children. We discovered that it is an easier task if we have our own sense of competence, value, love-ability - a good general positive self-image. So, if we do not already have this good positive sense of ourselves, how do we get it, and, more importantly, hold on to it in a time of crisis?

a) Look into the mirror each morning and tell ourselves how wonderful we are

b) Make several appointments for intensive psychotherapy

c) Make an appointment for a hair cut

d) Write out a resume, or a list of achievements.

Again, any of the above could be the right answer, depending on the situation.

A few of us lived "normal" childhoods with mostly "positive" experiences. Perhaps all we need when we are overtired or had a bad day, is a pat on the back. Maybe we can boost our self-image by talking nicely to ourselves in the mirror, or by getting a hair cut, or by treating

ourselves to some indulgence. Some days maybe it takes more work to enhance our self-esteem. Then it may be time to go over our resumes or list our achievements.

Other of us have suffered some abuse, neglect or sense of abandonment in childhood. We may have put feelings surrounding these issues aside and function perfectly well most days. Then suddenly, without explanation, we find ourselves "dumping" on our own kids. Depending on the frequency and intensity of these occurrences, it may be appropriate to explore some of our childhood issues with a skilled counsellor. Our goal of creating positive self-esteem in our children can better be achieved when we have a firm hold on our own positive self-image. Taking whatever steps are necessary to feel better ourselves is the best path to help our children feel good.

Valerie Cunningham, a paediatric nurse in independent practice, offers a variety of parenting courses, workshops and private consultations. She may be reached at 877-6398.

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