

Halton Place hobbled

Tired of missed deadlines, open building permits and a “just ignore all the rules” attitude, the Town will not approve any equestrian events at Halton Place this year until all outstanding permits and work orders are closed.

If that happens, the Town will not object to a Halton Place application to the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) for a Development Control Permit for three horse events this year. Halton Place is appealing an earlier NEC refusal to allow unlimited events and overnight camping at the facility on 10 Side Road, between the Third and Fourth Lines.

While the staff report recommended Council approve six horse events, subject to site plan approval and an updated Traffic Impact Study, at the suggestion of Ward two Councillor Joan Robson, who is Council’s rep on the NEC, additional conditions were imposed requiring Halton Place to comply with orders in connection with four building permits prior to any horse shows being allowed.

“I don’t like the idea that a particular applicant can just ignore all the rules that apply to everyone, so no one is above – this is for the protection and safety of people in the community,” Robson said.

Halton Place lawyer Thomas Arnold said they would withdraw an application

to use a newly built sand ring, negating the need for an updated traffic study. He said none of the outstanding permits are safety related, but deal with office space.

Both Councillors Moya Johnson and Bryan Lewis expressed frustration that Halton Place has an attitude that the rules don’t apply to them and deadlines can be broken with impunity.

Several neighbours, including Jack Pemberton, asked Council to object to the Development Control Permit application, arguing the small horse show facility is now a large commercial event enterprise on 100 acres with 11 rings, six parking areas and roads. Pemberton said Halton Place continues to not meet site work specifications and its compliance history is “not very good.”

Neighbour Ron Morin said it is “bewildering” that Halton Place is making new applications before closing out old ones with the Town, and taking advantage of the good will of a lot of people.

Acton/Regional Councillor Clark Somerville said he hoped that Halton Place’s lawyer could understand their frustration because every year they come offering more and giving less. “I’m almost more inclined to just turn the whole thing down and to say ‘to hell with it’, but they are trying to work with Halton Place.”

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