

Frustrated neighbours tell Town council they've had enough of Halton Place events

By CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer



Neighbours say equestrian events at nearby Halton Place have adversely affected their lifestyle. *File photo*

Neighbours concerned about a growing equestrian farm on 15 Sideroad packed the public gallery of the council chambers at a recent council meeting.

The residents say this normally quiet countryside is disrupted with six equestrian events throughout the summer, starting this year on May 26 and ending Sept. 12. Noise, additional traffic, manure disposal, water impacts, lack of adherence to Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC), Conservation Halton and Town regulations and lowered property values are their chief concerns.

In January, council had asked its planning department to provide an update on the status of the required works associated with a site plan agreement between the Town and Halton Place.

Halton Hills Planning Director Bruce MacLean said only minor items are left to be completed of the site plan requirements and "we anticipate the work can easily be done prior to any events occurring in May."

Halton Place solicitor Bert Arnold agreed things are "moving at a good pace now... and outstanding works can be done...as long as somebody doesn't trip us up with some more permit requirements."

Council passed a staff recommendation that the agreement and all required works must be done at least 30 days before the first Halton Place event set for May 26.

But several residents had their say first. Neighbour Ron Morin, speaking on behalf of his neighbours, finds it downright overwhelming for the residents and suggests a multi-agency committee be set up to deal with issues on this property.

"It's a little intimidating when we, as neighbours, are trying to understand what's going on and to protect our own property and living style," Morin said. "We seem to be just saddled with this."

Neighbouring property owner Jack Pemberton was even more blunt.

"We must contain this blight in the middle of our agricultural community; we cannot let it grow," he said.

Halton Place owner Timur Leckebusch had been scheduled to speak, but he withdrew his request, leaving his lawyer to

speaking in his stead.

MacLean agreed the multi-jurisdictions were confusing and it does require co-ordination. He explained the different roles of the various agencies and explained the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) has the lead agency role.

Appearing at the invitation of Halton Hills council, NEC manager Ken Whitbread said NEC commissioners have some real sympathy for the neighbours.

"Their whole summer, by and large, is taken up with events...people who have had a pastoral rural environment now have event after event," said Whitbread.

In his history of the property, Whitbread said about 10 years ago when Halton Place first approached the NEC for a permit to operate the equestrian farm, it was denied. But that was appealed, and Halton Place won.

"Over the years we've had a lot of difficulty with Halton Place, primarily them not getting permits, so this is nothing new," said Whitbread.

Since then the NEC has attempted to "scope down" the property's entrepreneurial efforts by denying a BMX bike track,

classic cars and dog trial shows, and weddings and banquets events, Whitbread said.

While the NEC at its February meeting did not void the 2010 portion of the two-year permit issued to Halton Place for equestrian events, as requested by the residents, "Next year is a new year," said Whitbread.

"And whether based on performance, the Commission actually issues a permit next year will be telling," he said, adding the NEC compliance officer has been active on this file.

Neighbour Mike Shantz questioned the creation of a berm around a fourth riding ring by heavy equipment last fall, stating this is yet another case when Halton Place goes ahead and does something, then applies for a permit afterwards.

Whitbread agreed a NEC development permit is required for a berm/ring if it is used as part of the 2010 events, but not if it's part of the general agricultural operations of the property.

Whitbread said the NEC is still waiting for Halton Place to come and talk to them to find out what's required and what's not.

He suggested that the Town of Halton Hills complete the site plan process with Halton Place, adding a codicil requiring a permit for the spectator berm.

While Halton Place filed an application on Feb. 12 for a NEC Development Permit for the spectator berm/riding ring located at the former BMX bike track location, they advised NEC at the time there is no plan to use the riding ring in 2010.

Arnold said the one-metre high spectator berm could be easily removed but noted it was initially put in as a noise attenuation technique.

"If that ring is used (in events this year) there would be consequences (for Halton Place)," warned Whitbread.

But again Arnold at Monday's meeting assured the riding ring would not be used during shows.

Halton Place, he said, has complied with all Town requirements on a timely basis.

Representing a clearly frustrated council, Mayor Rick Bonnette said the Town staff's efforts are just trying to bring peace to the neighbourhood by addressing the concerns of the residents and let Halton Place progress as well.



... Lend Me Your Ears

By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

COUNSELLING THE NEW HEARING AID USER

The following few tips, if followed correctly, will prolong the benefits and enjoyment of better hearing:

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- Q. What is a permanent processed reline/rebase?
A. A processed reline/rebase is a way of re-basing your denture from the same type of long care acrylic from which it was originally made. This will make the denture fit more snugly to your ridge.
- Q. Will it change the appearance of my teeth?
A. No, it only re-fits the denture to your ridge, no change of tooth position takes place.
- Q. What are soft, or cushion relines?
A. A permanent soft rubber lining is applied to the lower denture inside ridge. soft, or cushion relines are excellent alternatives for those who have sensitive oral tissue and tend to get frequent sore spots. A properly applied soft lining can provide years of comfortable chewing and smiling.

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Dianne Grundy (nee Worrall) of McFarlane Drive in Georgetown

Local woman will turn 65 tomorrow, detained at U.S border today

"As innocent as she may appear, our sources informed us that she should be investigated. Upon further inspection, the suspect was found with excessive amounts of commonly used geriatric sundries and enough

Folgers coffee bags to last 20 years", said inspector Hugh Morris.

Dianne's husband, 5 children and 9 grandchildren thought this would be way more fun than just saying Happy Birthday.

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