

## STILL WAITING

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# THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

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## Halton Place denied shows

By CYNTHIA GAMBLE  
Staff Writer

Halton Place will not be allowed to hold any horse shows this summer.

The 15 Sideroad equestrian facility failed in its bid to get a Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) development permit to allow the Canadian Country Classic—three horse shows over three weeks held annually in the late summer.

With little discussion Thursday, NEC commissioners voted to accept a staff report to refuse the application at their monthly meeting.

"I think really the time has come when we need a higher decision from a tribunal, because we have been struggling with this for eight or nine years now," said Commissioner Joan Little, who motioned to accept staff's recommendation of refusal. "This is a pretty big operation that suggests more than a horse farm. ... because it's grown at top speed. It's grown beyond our ability to control."

Already the Niagara Escarpment Hearing Office is scheduled to hear Halton Place's appeal of a NEC decision earlier this year to deny an unrestricted number of events in perpetuity, including overnight trailer parking. A prehearing was held yesterday (Monday) with a full hearing to begin on July 18, 10 a.m. in Milton.

Thursday's decision concerned only an application for the Canadian Country Classic shows, with the same conditions as in 2010.

And Halton Place solicitor Bert Arnold tried to emphasize that fact, criticizing the NEC report for "getting ahead of itself" on commenting on the previous application in relation to this one. He pointed out that other agencies did not object to the three-show request, includ-

See NEC, pg. 7

## Hooping it up at Big Daddy

Kaeleigh McCartney, 3, shows off her hula hoop skills for dad Ryan during Saturday's Big Daddy Festival in downtown Georgetown. Thousands took part in the two-day event which featured a wide variety of entertainment across Halton Hills. For more photos see Thursday's *Independent & Free Press*. Photo by Calvin Dyke

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