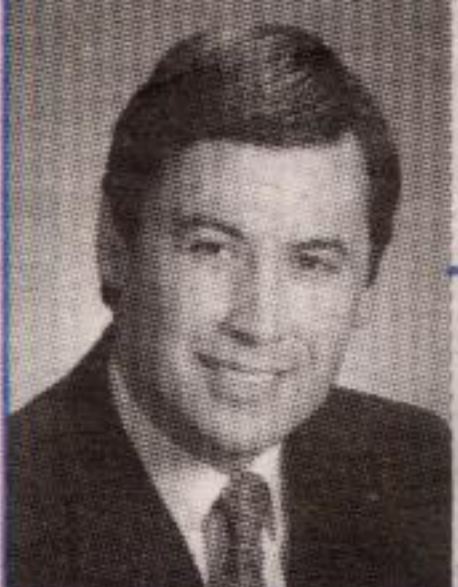


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REGIONAL NEWS, NOTES AND NEIGHBOURS

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NEC drives the final nail in the coffin Country Heritage Park prospects look bleak

BY BERNADETTE WARD

It appears that sympathy is easily given, but unfortunately for Country Heritage Park - not so quarter, the lack of which say supporters, might spell the end of the well-renowned museum.

"They've driven a final nail in the coffin as far as Country Heritage Park is concerned," said Milton Councillor Barry Lee.

A visibly distraught Reg Cressman was nearly bereft of words after the November 14 Niagara Escarpment (NEC) hearing ended with a denied application for a deferral that would have bought CHP some time until an Open Space/Master Plan was in place.

The decision was made after a brief hearing during which Reg Cressman from CHP presented the organization's perspective and during which members of the NEC considered the application.

Cressman pointed out, as he did before Milton council, that the museum is a valuable tourist feature in the Region and one that houses over 20,000 exhibits dated back to 1830.

"You have to realize that what we have is an outstanding collection of artifacts. We have a treasure here that we cannot afford to lose," said Cressman.

The non-profit organization, currently in a transition phase from government operating grants to an endowment mode of operation, maintains that it is desperate for the money that the deal with Toronto Auto Auctions (TAA) brings.

By allowing TAA to park their cars on CHP's three parking lots during the winter season, the museum garners about 45 percent of its winter revenue or about \$50,000 to \$60,000.

After a complaint was made earlier this year about a large number of cars being parked on the 80-acre museum site the NEC had advised CHP that such a use was not in keeping with the permitted use.

The park is classified as a historical park with car storage being seen as commercial/industrial use by the NEC.

A number of NEC board members appeared to be sympathetic to the financial plight of CHP, but not all.

"If this was anywhere else on the escarpment, it would be an automatic 'no'" said Ken Whitbread, NEC Manager. "I don't think this is what the escarpment plan is all about."

NEC staff member David Johnson indicated that aside from it not being a permitted use, the application did not indicate a time frame in terms of when the master plan might be completed. It was also suggested that the NEC would not necessarily support the car parking arrangement even if included in a master plan.

Some solutions were suggested by a number of representatives

Continued on page 5



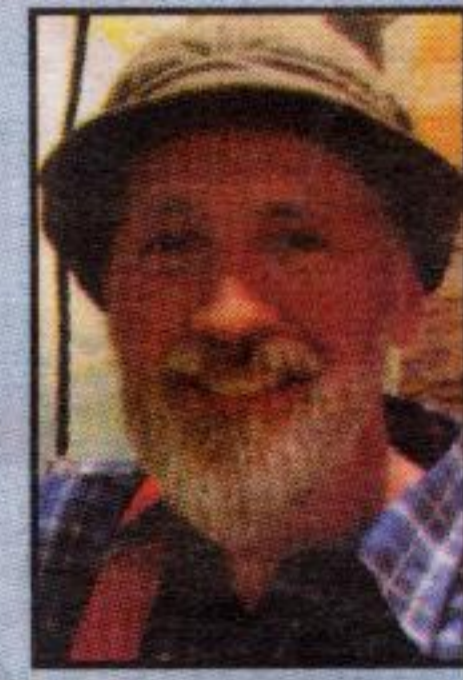
PHOTO BY PETER MCCUSKER

Undeclared Notre Dame girls were favoured to win the Halton Championships this week at Sheridan College. Georgetown's Jo Meltzer battles for the ball in a semi-final game last week in Burlington. See sports roundup next week in the Compass for results. Notre Dame has won the Halton championship over MM Robinson, 46-40, Sheridan College Tuesday afternoon.

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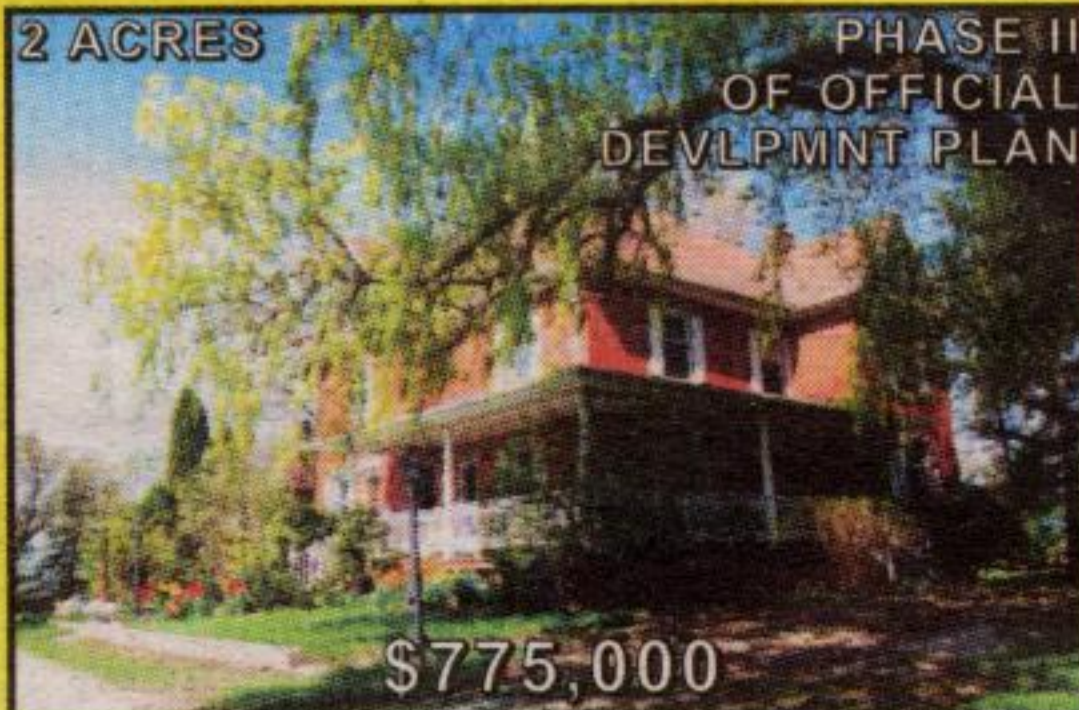
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