

# Private school on council's agenda

**LISA TALLYN**  
Staff Writer

A proposed private elementary school in the rural area that previously met with strong opposition from area residents will be on the Town of Halton Hills Council agenda Monday.

A report on the Keswick Sutherland School proposed for a 95.6-acre property on Eighth Line between 27 and 32 Sideroads will be up for council consideration that night. The approximate time the report is expected to be dealt with is 6:30 p.m.

The report includes a recommendation that the Town has no objection to the Regional Official Plan Amendment required to permit the JK to Grade 8 school.

The Town's comments are to be forwarded to Halton Region.

"Planning staff are of the opinion that the application has merit and represents good planning," said Curtis Marshall, Planner Development Review, in the report. "Planning staff is of the opinion that the proposed private school with associated equestrian centre is a compatible rural land use which is appropriately located in the rural area."

The application calls for a two-storey 10,000 sq. ft. school and daycare that would serve about 150 students and an equestrian centre for up to 40 horses.

Public meetings held in 2006 on the application that was filed back in 2005 sparked a lot of objections and concerns from residents who live near the proposed school site. At the time, a petition signed by 115 area residents opposed to the school was presented to Halton Region.

Increased traffic, safety, and impact on water in the area were main concerns raised.

In the Town report engineering staff said they were satisfied that traffic volume and safe-

ty issues had been adequately addressed by reports submitted by the applicant.

Engineering staff have made recommendations to increase safety including:

- Relocating the main access to the school seven metres south of the existing barn lane access

- Painting a new yellow directional dividing line through the Eighth Line from 32 Sideroad to 27 Sideroad

- Reducing the posted speed limit in the area from 70 km/h to 60 km/h

- Posting school area signs

On the water supply issue, the report states that regarding the monitoring, location, groundwater quality and the proposed water taking at the school Credit Valley Conservation indicated they are satisfied the hydro geological component of the application has been addressed.

The application requires a development permit from the Niagara Escarpment Commission, however, the Town staff report recommends the Niagara Escarpment Commission defer its decision on the development permit for the school and the application be held in abeyance pending the establishment of zoning on the property and removal of the NEC Development Control permit regulation. It also recommends the NEC remove the Development Control permit regulation as it applies to the land once the Town has approved a zoning bylaw.

Halton Region's Director of Planning and Transportation Mary Lou Tanner said the comments from the Town are the last the Region has been awaiting and are considered to be "pretty important" in terms of providing a local perspective.

Tanner said Region staff expects to report to Planning and Public Works committee on the application by June.

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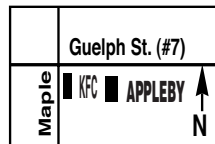
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