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A Metroland Community Newspaper

Vol. 139 No. 28

Friday, June 5, 1998

36 Pages

75¢ (GST included)



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Good, clean fun

Select soccer teammates Shaina Locke (left) and Candace Sharp horse around during the under-16 squad's fundraising car wash Saturday at the Esso gas bar on Derry Road.

Casino is planned for Mohawk track

By **KAREN SMITH**
The Champion

Mohawk Raceway has been chosen as a site for one of more than 40 charity casinos to be built in Ontario.

The Ontario Jockey Club (OJC) and Carnival Hotels and Casinos will approach town council Monday night with a plan to open the 22,000-square-foot gaming facility at Campbellville's harness racing track in December.

If approved, the OJC will provide space for the casino in a currently unused area of the grandstand building, acting only as the landlord in the project, said Gerard Spoor,

vice-president of standardbred horse racing operations.

"We don't pretend to know the gaming business. We know the racing business," he said at a public open house hosted by the Town of Milton and the OJC at Memorial Arena Wednesday night.

Carnival will oversee the entire operation of the gaming facility while the OJC, which has struggled to keep Mohawk Raceway on its feet, will look to boost horse race wagering and the industry as a whole using the casino as an attraction.

Attendance at OJC facilities has been generally declining, resulting in track closures, and the recent openings of casinos has put a further dent in business, Mr. Spoor said.

"We have tried and tried to keep it (Mohawk Raceway) open, but things haven't been so good. Racetracks are being left with no choice but to embrace these competitive products in order to protect their horse racing businesses."

Considering the track used to attract 8,000 patrons a night and now only about 1,200 come through the gates, the casino proposal is just what the doctor ordered, he said.

"They co-exist very neatly together. This space is relatively easy to convert and presents an opportunity to provide horse racing and charity casino customers with physically separate areas yet expose each of these uses to the other's customer."

Carnival, which operates Casino-Rama, saw Mohawk Raceway as an ideal location, said Steve Kates of the travel and tourism magnet's casino division.

"It's just a natural location," he said at the open house where the public was invited to learn about the project.

He noted the track is close to Hwy. 401, but somewhat isolated from residential and commercial development, has parking to accommodate 3,500 cars, and has been a gambling location for the past 35 years.

The casino, which will operate on a modest scale in size as well as regulations compared to commercial gaming facilities like Casino-Rama and Casino Niagara, will feature 40 table games, 150 slot machines and dining and entertainment facilities.

Betting will be limited to \$100 and no credit or banking machines will be available on site. No free alcohol will be served and no admission will be granted to any-

Milton worried stalling starting

By **BRAD REAUME**
The Champion

Demands for detailed financial information could delay Milton growth, according to Mayor Gord Krantz.

The phasing plan for growth passed Halton regional council scrutiny Wednesday, but with the proviso that information on the costs for additional police, roads and schools associated with expansion be included in the financial plan.

That document will be presented later this month.

Fearing delays to growth in north Halton, all three Milton representatives on the 20-member council refused to support that condition when it came to a vote.

In so doing ironically they pulled their votes — for that day — from endorsing the overall Halton Urban Structure Plan (HUSP). Milton has been lobbying for HUSP in one form or another since a home building freeze was imposed on the town in the mid 1980s.

• see GROWTH on page 3

• see CASINO on page 12

NEWSLINES

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'I Love to Read' festival Sunday

The third annual I Love to Read/Children's Literary Festival will be held this Sunday at the Farm Museum.

Authors, illustrators and storytellers will be on hand from noon to 4 p.m. for readings and book signings. Wagon rides and picnic

grounds are on site.

The event promotes literacy and the importance of reading to children.

Tickets cost \$5 for adults and children are admitted free.

The Farm Museum is located on Townline Road, north of Steeles Avenue.



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