

Town councillors will look at exempting farmers

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"I walked in to pay for it and almost fainted," he said of the sum. "I didn't know what to do. I had to pay it and hope something worked out better."

He pointed out that his DC amounted to 15.6 per cent of the cost of the new barn.

He contrasted that to the 1.6 per cent that would have been levied on a residential structure.

"I did a lot of research," he said wryly. "For \$53,000, you can do a lot of research."

But after combing through DC reports, Mr. Opsteen said he couldn't find a reason for deleting agriculture's previous fee exemption.

"I don't know why we were removed," he said. "We are asking for full relief of our development charge."

Rebuilding the barn didn't put pressure on town services, argued Mr. Opsteen.

"I keep saying my chickens don't swim and they don't do a lot of reading at the town library," he said. "I don't think we're having an effect on the town's taxable services."

Councillor Barry Lee put a motion on the floor directing staff to look at the possibility of exempting bona fide farmers from the charges. But, he noted, "defining a bona fide farmer isn't as simple as it appears."

Despite that, the motion was supported.

And Milton's final decision on the issue will be noticed by other jurisdictions, warned Councillor Brian Penman.

"This particular one is echoing through the province, I assure you," he said. "What we do is under some scrutiny."

Councillor Rick Malboeuf wondered how the rebuilt chicken farm could be considered costly to current taxpayers. "Is there anything here that will justify development charges?"

Gala award ceremony tomorrow

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big risk, but the potential was there."

Today, Ms Doddington has opened three Safe and Sound locations, as well as a private, affordable grade school for children in need of more individualized attention than is often available at regular schools.

Her daycare centres have been a success because she's determined to cater to the varied demands of working parents.

"We try to offer everything we possibly can to the working person," said Ms Doddington. "We try to be as flexible as possible to help out anyone who needs daycare."

Running a private centre can be a tough slog, but there are also infinite rewards, said Ms Doddington, who credits all her staff, past and present, as well as the parents involved, for its success.

"There's not a lot of professions where you can go to work and get hugged in," she said. "That's the fun part."

The award winner will be announced tomorrow night during a Chamber gala held at Granite Ridge Golf Club.

Case delayed until May 30

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interest that it's tried expedite."

Proceedings have been postponed several times already. Mr. Deoni's first lawyer requested time to review all legal documents, then the school trustee switched lawyers.

Mr. Deoni was charged after a two-month Halton Regional Police investigation at the Milton business where he worked on contract as a bookkeeper.

Mr. Deoni is still serving as a school trustee. The Education Act calls for the removal of a trustee only if the person is convicted.



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