

Strip bar proposal nixed by Town committee

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

The naked truth is there won't likely be a new strip bar in town soon.

An application to open an adult entertainment club on Steeles Avenue was exposed as unwanted by members of Milton's administration and finance committee Monday.

The proposal was for the site formerly known as the Rock 'N' Bull bar. But committee put the kibosh on it before it went as far as a technical report.

Currently, strip bars aren't permitted in any town zoning, though council can approve them on a site-by-site basis.

But there's no reason to believe the communi-

ty wants a strip club in Milton, said Councillor John Challinor.

"Part of the responsibility this council has is to be the guardians of community standards," he said. "I don't get any sense that there's a requirement in the community for this kind of business."

He said an informal canvass over the weekend had the strip bar batting zero.

"I in no way want to force my personal views on this subject on the Town of Milton," said Mr. Challinor. "But I think it's safe to say this does not meet current community standards. I think it's clear, at least in my mind, what we should do here."

Other councillors also expressed concerns

over the application.

Criminal or unsavoury elements which are often linked to strip clubs worried Councillor Brian Penman. Councillor Wally Hunter was concerned that those who visit inmates at the expanded Maplehurst Correctional Complex, or remanded inmates themselves, could be drawn to the club.

And Councillor Barry Lee was concerned that once a site has been deemed appropriate for strip bars, it stays that way in perpetuity.

The applicant is the owner of two strip bars on the same site in Guelph.

He's been in the business for 20 years and has never faced criminal charges, said his solicitor, David Starr.

The applicant had searched hard for an acceptable site for the controversial enterprise, added Mr. Starr.

But Councillor Cindy Lunau said she has never heard anyone say a strip bar is needed in town.

"I don't get an overwhelming sense that the community wants this," she said. "I've heard them ask for bowling alleys and movie theatres and outdoor skateboard parks, but I can honestly say I've never heard anyone of any sex or any business partner say that what we really need is a strip club."

Committee's recommendation to quash the proposal will go before council for final approval Tuesday.

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Bike camp fund started in memory of Rory Dick

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which is organizing the event. "Those kids had so many friends."

Mr. Dick worked for Spokes in the past, and also rode competitively for the store. Recently he raced to a seventh-place finish in a western Canadian downhill competition.

The memorial ride will set out from Halton Hills Place at about 10:30 a.m.

The procession of cyclists will proceed to Kelso Conservation Area, where Father Mark Curtis will lead the memorial with a small sermon and song.

The event is expected to wrap up near noon. Ideally, it could bring some closure to students whose lives have been torn by the collision, said Mr. Burger.

"I foresee easily three or four hundred riders," he said. "It might be a great send-off."

Aside from the memorial ride, Spokes has also started a Rory Dick Memorial Mountain Bike Camp Fund. The camp is expected to begin operating next year at Kelso.

Monday's memorial isn't a fundraising event, and the only cash riders may need is enough to enter the Kelso grounds.

But donations to the fund can be dropped off at Spokes 'n' Slopes, located at 89 Ontario St. N. Cheques should be made out to Rory's Camp.

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