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A Metroland Community Newspaper

Vol. 142 No. 24

Friday, June 14, 2002

36 Pages

\$1.00 (GST included)



Spring fling

Friends (from left) Jessy Stark, Kelsey Corradetti, Jesse Bondy and Jessica Wallace try the 'ski game' at Martin Street School's Spring Fling Saturday. Above, Jennifer Brechin, 4, roars as she shows off her tiger face.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

OMB approves Milton strip club at former Steeles Ave. tavern site

By RICHARD VIVIAN
The Champion

A strip club at the former Rock 'N Bull Tavern will be allowed in Milton following an OMB ruling that overturned a previous town council decision barring the establishment.

In a judgement handed down last Friday, Justice J. de P. Seaborn of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) said the strip club doesn't violate municipal, regional or provincial planning legislation.

Therefore, according to the ruling, a zoning amendment for the property should have been granted by the Town when it was first sought in 2000.

During a two-day hearing in April, the Town argued the location was unsuitable for an adult entertainment parlour because Steeles Avenue is a gateway to the community. Residential development in the surrounding area is also planned, the board was told.

But in its judgement, the board said the location isn't part of the central business district and is surrounded by industrial uses.

The Town has 30 days from the date of the decision to file an appeal to provincial cabinet.

Ward two Councillor Art Melanson — whose ward contains the strip club site — told *The Champion* he's considering bringing forward a motion to appeal at Monday's town council meeting.

"I'll have to talk to the solicitor first," he said. "I thought it (OMB appeal) was going to be turned down. I was really hoping that they would turn it down."

Plans are currently underway for the club's construction this summer at the former Rock 'N Bull Tavern site on Steeles Avenue, just east of Bronte Street, said David Starr, legal representative for the club operator.

"We feel vindicated — we're excited. We had done our best to select a careful site that had consideration of our neighbours and the town as a whole," Mr. Starr commented.

"We know our business is controversial, but it is our goal to run this business as non-controversially as possible."

Before construction of the new club can begin, site plan approval and building permits are still needed from the Town. Mr. Starr said he expects those applications to be filed within 60 days.

A business licence will also be required before the club opens.

Fellow ward two councillor Wally Hunter expressed disappointment with the OMB decision. He said the hope now is that the strip club won't see enough business to stay open for a great length of time.

"I don't think anyone is going to be very happy about this. It's not my idea of the kind of business you want to have in a small town like Milton," he said.

"People are forcing this down the Town's throat, saying there's a constitutional right to operate a business. This is something we (council) should have total control over. We should be able to reject any application."

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 - Nassagaweya Country News • Home Hardware
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