

Possible uses for Percy W. Merry site include housing livestock or a vet's office

By **JASON MISNER**

The Champion

How would like to see the Percy W. Merry School site used to house livestock?

How about a farm produce outlet?

Or a veterinarian's office?

Now before you blow a gasket or call Town Hall to congratulate them, keep in mind these are just a few of the broad uses allowed for the school's site according to the Town's Official Plan and zoning bylaws.

Ward 1 Councillor Rick Day asked staff a few weeks ago to create a report outlining possible uses of Percy Merry and the type of designation — what the site can legally be used for under current zoning laws.

The school is closing its doors at the end of June and

Mr. Day's intent was to find out as much information about allowable intended uses of the building if ever it came up for private sale.

That staff report came back to the Town's March 17 administration and planning committee and stated the site is classified A1, or agricultural.

The report outlined a number of potential uses, including:

- a church facility
- a fish and wildlife management

"What I was concerned about was an obnoxious use of the school sneaking in under the existing zoning. But if we look at it, that's not likely."

RICK DAY

facility

- a kennel with indoor animal runs
- a woodlot

Mr. Day, whose ward includes Percy Merry, said he was happy to see the uses laid out in front of him. He said he would like to see the building used in some educational form, perhaps for home-building courses.

What he hopes, he said, is that any future use works with nearby Drumquin Park in some capacity.

"What I was concerned about was an obnoxious use of the school sneaking in under the existing zoning," he said. "But if we look at it, that's not likely."

The Halton District School Board is in the midst of deciding

what to do with the property. It must follow a protocol to relinquish ownership.

There's a prepared list created by the Province that outlines agencies that have first dibs to apply for the property without having to pay for it.

The board must choose the agency that's highest on the list. If none of those government-identified agencies apply, then the building goes on the open market, and that's when municipalities, for example, can bid to buy the building.

The school, despite opposition from parents, is closing because space is being underutilized. Under Ministry of Education requirements, school boards can't get money to construct a new school until excess pupil spaces are accounted for.

Percy Merry students will attend Sam Sherratt School in September.

In the last three years, four Burlington properties have been disposed of and one property is currently being dealt with in Oakville by the public board.

Thinking a little harder, Mr. Day thought of a use for Percy Merry.

"Hey, I got one, how about a public school," he said, chuckling.

Jason Misner can be reached at jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

No new SARS cases in Halton; things seem to be calming down

There are no other SARS cases to report in Halton other than the Burlington resident who's in home isolation as the region's only suspected case.

The number of people quarantined in Halton has dropped and the number of phone calls into the Region's health department have decreased.

Halton's Medical Officer of

Health Dr. Bob Nosal said when and if the Burlington patient's symptoms subside, his condition will be monitored for 72 hours to make sure things are okay.

The number of people in quarantine stood at 10 at press time yesterday. Prior to that, 50 had been quarantined and cleared of SARS.

The Region, which had been taking between 130 and 150 calls a

day, are now experiencing about 75 calls a day.

Even the Province's telehealth hotline number has seen calls fall from 10,000 a day to about 7,000 a day.

Hospitals in the Greater Toronto Area, including Halton, continue to be under severe directives by the Province, like restricting patients, until further notice.

Electrical fire at Mohawk Inn

An electrical fire early yesterday morning caused \$10,000 damage to a meeting room at the Mohawk Inn in Campbellville.

At about 5:30 a.m., a heat/air conditioning unit caught fire due to an electrical malfunction, said Tim

Roberts of the Milton Fire Department.

Firefighters extinguished the blaze before it spread.

It caused heavy smoke damage to the room and some smoke damage to a nearby hallway.

There were no injuries.

Due to changes in the composition of the newspaper at press time, please see Photographer of the Year Graham Paine's full-page colour photo feature in Tuesday's issue.

BILL'S AUTO BODY SHOP

Working Harder to stay #1

Insurance Claims Specialists

Complete auto body and refinishing services

155 Nipissing Rd., Milton
(905) 878-2721

Ries Boers

Attention: College & University Graduates

Receive up to **\$1,000 Allowance***

Plus... **NO Security Deposit on all Leases.**

Plus... **0.2% Reduction on Lease & Finance Rates!**

2003 Echo
RED TAG DAYS
4.5% LEASE RATE

2003 Celica
RED TAG DAYS
5.9% LEASE RATE

2003 Corolla
RED TAG DAYS
5.9% LEASE RATE

2003 Matrix
RED TAG DAYS
5.9% LEASE RATE

2003 Tacoma
RED TAG DAYS
5.9% LEASE RATE

2003 RAV4
RED TAG DAYS
4.5% LEASE RATE

* On select models. See Milton Toyota for details.

If you graduated in the last 4 years, or are graduating in the next 4 mos., then be sure to call...

MILTON TOYOTA

400 Steeles Avenue (next to Gorrud's Auto Group)
905 875-1700 www.milontoyota.com

ALL VEHICLES INCLUDE
A Full Tank of Gas
Roadside Assistance
Floor Mats