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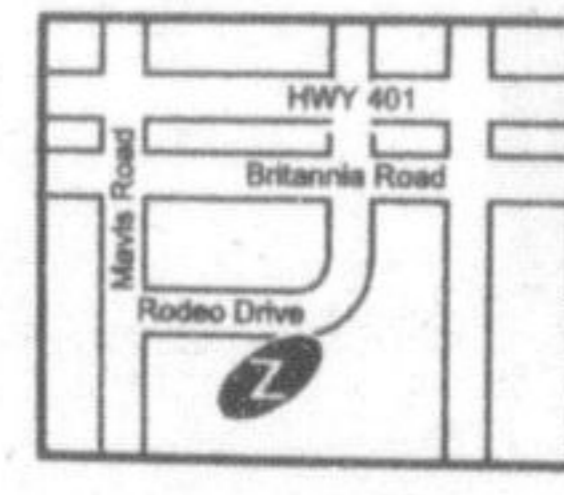
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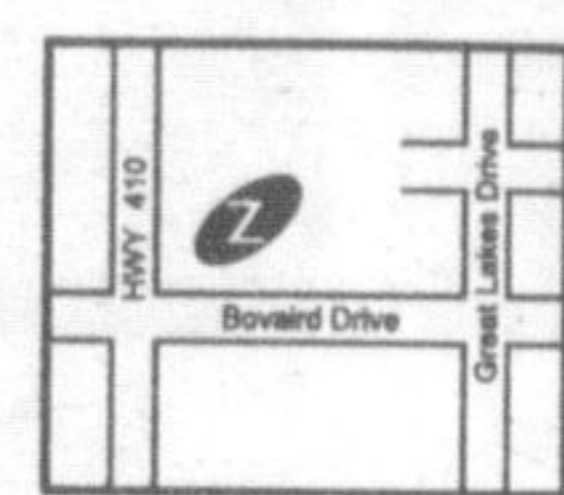
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## ER tribunal gives Halton Place events green light

### Dog agility trials and equestrian show go ahead as planned

By Lisa Tallyn  
 SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

The AAC National Dog Agility Trials and Canadian Country Classic Equestrian Tournament are a go at Halton Place.

The fates of the two events at the No. 15 Sideroad farm — one which started yesterday and the other next week — were in jeopardy after five neighbours appealed the Niagara Escarpment Commission permits for the events.

But in his decision issued last Friday following an Environmental Review Tribunal hearing that ended August 3, hearing officer Knox Henry confirmed the NEC permits, allowing the events to go ahead as planned.

That means the dog agility trials have begun at Halton Place and will run through Sunday, and the Canadian Country Classic will be held Wednesday to August 26, and from August 29 to September 2.

#### Welcome news

"We are thrilled," said Megan Krueger, general manager of Halton Place. "It's definitely a big relief, both financially and from the time we spent (organizing the events.)"

She said she received several phone calls and there was a lot of interest from those in the "horse community" concerned about the fate of the equestrian event.

Had the hearing officer not upheld the NEC permits, Krueger said Halton Place would have had to cancel the shows and face several thousands of dollars in fines and a prohibition from hosting a similar event for a year from Equine Canada.

She said cancellation of the dog agility trials "would have been a great

disappointment" to participants in that event.

Krueger said Halton Place has met with neighbours and will work with them "to implement an event management plan."

#### Not surprised by ruling

Neither Jack Pemberton nor Hilda Darcie, two of the five area residents who appealed the NEC permits, were surprised by the hearing officer's decision. The other three residents opposed to the permits were Ron Morin, Paul Dodson and Mike Shantz.

"We accept it," said Pemberton. "The biggest battle is ahead of us — the (Halton Place) three-year plan."

Darcie said by the second day of the hearing it was clear to her that Henry had already made up his mind.

"It didn't seem to matter what we said about the dog agility trials," said Darcie. "It's purely entertainment and has nothing to do with agriculture."

She viewed the hearing as fair in some ways, but not fair in others.

"We weren't allowed to even bring up what was on their (Halton Place) website," said Darcie.

She said in light of the fact the dog agility trials is a one-time event she is "not going to create a big scene about it."

"I have to accept it because that's the decision that was made."

In his decision, Henry said he agreed with Krueger, NEC planner David Johnston and Halton Place planner Glen Broll that the dog trials and Canadian Country Classic were "within the scope of animal husbandry and/or agricultural use."

Henry also said that while "high volumes of sound can be disconcerting to the neighbours," Halton Place has "committed to replacing the speaker horns with loud speakers beginning this year."

He said hopefully that will minimize annoyance to neighbours, but "in the end, this is a matter under the jurisdiction of the Town and its noise bylaw."

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 E-mail: [humanresources@milton.ca](mailto:humanresources@milton.ca)

In accordance with the Freedom of Information and Privacy legislation, applicant information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used strictly for candidate selection. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.