Halton Place events approved

By Lisa Tallyn SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

It's a go for the summer lineup at Halton Place.

Like last year, the fate of the equestrian shows was up in the air after neighbours of the No. Sideroad horse farm appealed a Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) decision to issue a development permit for the equestrian events.

Tribunal hearing held in Georgetown ended June 25 and two days later hearing officer Dirk Vanderbent upheld the NEC decision, which came with 23 conditions.

This paved the way for the six shows, the first of which wrapped up Monday.

The second show and third shows run this week and next, with the three-week Canadian Country Classic running from mid-August to early September.

Neighbouring landowners Jack Pemberton and Hilda Darcie appealed the approval given by the NEC in April. Darcie later withdrew her appeal.

Neighbour Mike Shantz had party status at the hearing, while other participants and presenters at the hearing were area residents Robert Brettle, James and

Erin Wallace, Janet Campbell and Kathleen Coyle.

Pemberton said he wasn't happy with the decision.

"Our biggest concern is the noise. They say it's going to change. We'll see."

Pemberton said for about half the summer residents in the area have to cope with noise from the loudspeakers at Halton Place events.

"Last year, it started at 7:30 An Environmental Review a.m. to 7:30 p.m. I don't think anybody would find that acceptable," said Pemberton.

> Pemberton said 22 area residents signed a petition presented to the Town of Halton Hills requesting it not grant an exemption for events on private property.

> He said the Town's noise bylaw is "very simple, very practical."

Noise complaints the neighbours of Halton Place may have are to be dealt with through the Town's noise bylaw by calling the Town, but Pemberton said he's uncertain at this point what the recourse will be for neighbours on weekends.

Halton Place Competition manager Meg Krueger said they "were definitely relieved" the hearing officer upheld the NEC decision.

go through this every year," said Krueger, adding the horse shows are "permitted uses of an agricultural property."

She said the cost for the hearing is "significant" and "not pocket change."

With the hearing decision made and the permit and site plan approval from the Town coming just before the first show, Krueger said, "it makes everything very last minute, which is nerve-wracking."

While Krueger said there were "a lot of conditions" for an agricultural event, they didn't mind undertaking the necessary studies required, for example for traffic, noise and nutrient management.

"Anything we can do to improve operating our farm is great," said Krueger.

Other conditions Halton Place has to meet is that events only occur between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. and that amplification can only be used between 9 a.m. and

Halton Place will host a community appreciation event tomorrow (Saturday) at 4 p.m. Everyone, including Halton Place neighbours, is invited to attend the event that includes a barbecue, tour and opportunity for area residents to provide "But it's too bad we have to feedback on the first event.

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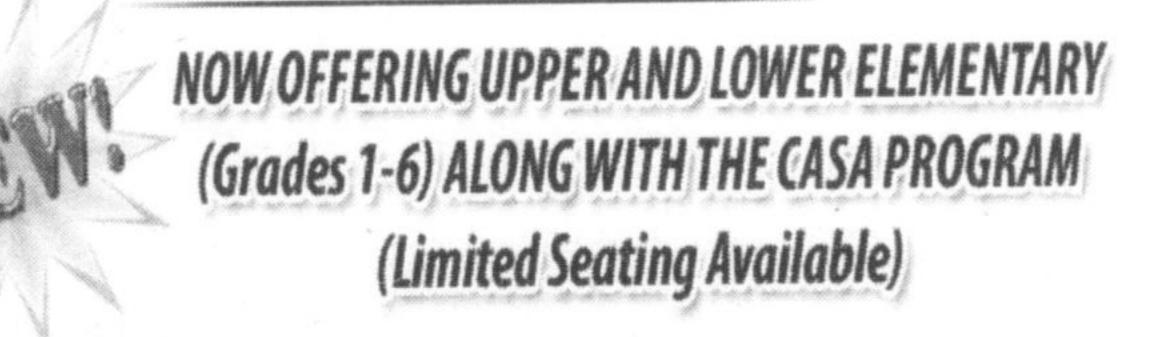
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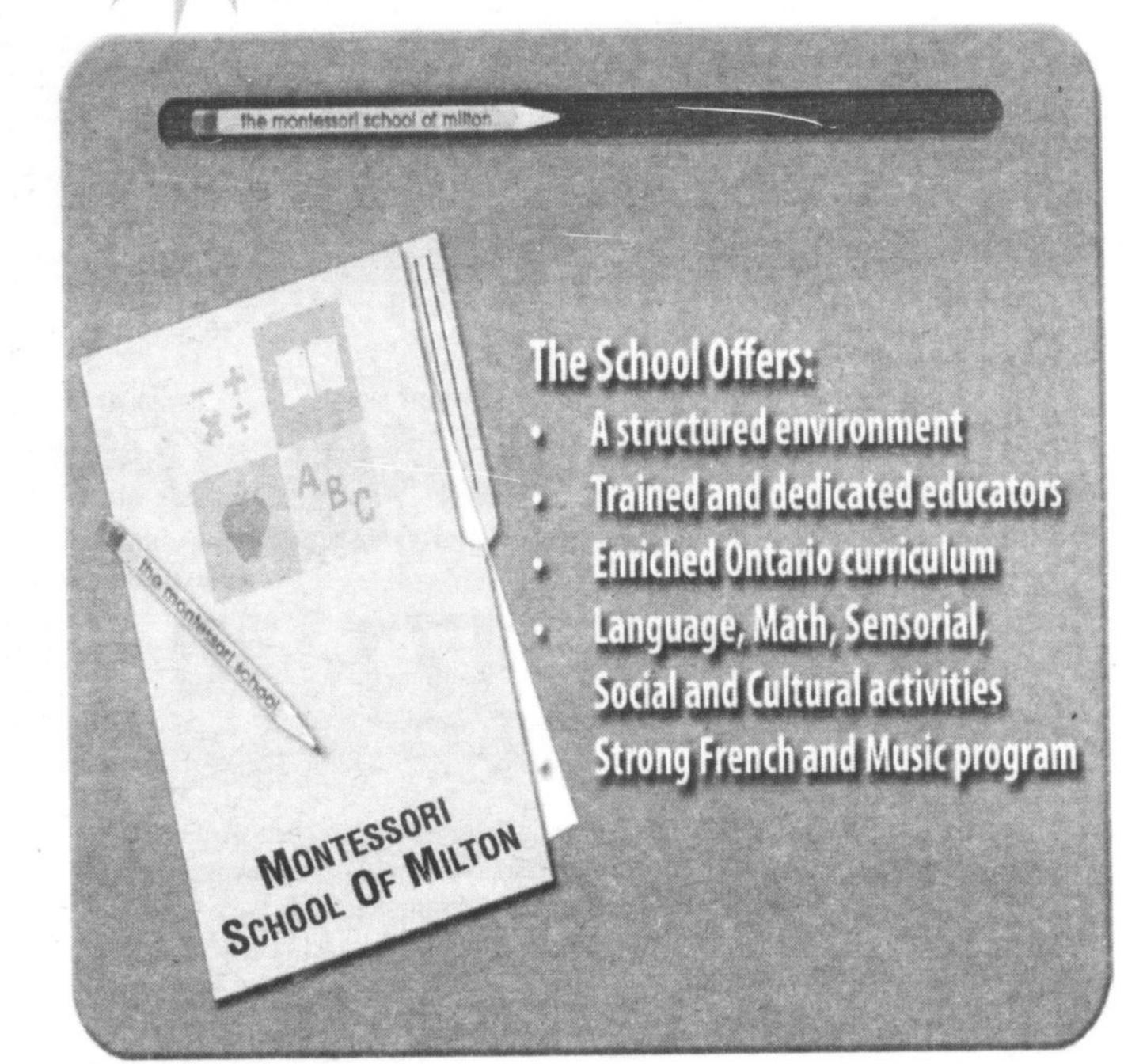
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