



Photo by JANE MULLER

### Horse bucks

The Halton Children's and Youth Foundation received \$1,200 from the Ontario Jockey Club backstretch horsemen at Mohawk Raceway Friday. The money was left over from a memorial fund for Paul Pond, a horseman who died after being kicked by a horse at the track. Bruce Attenborough (right) accepted the cheque from Pearl Maksymchuk (left) and Liz Bourgeois as Armbro Cazam looks on.

## Food venders hit with fee hike

People vending food from catering trucks, chip wagons and hot dog stands will be paying \$1,000 a year for a licence to do so come January.

Monday night town council's general committee approved boosting the fees "dramatically", to use town treasurer Jim McQueen's word. The idea is, he explained, to make the vendors pay the same business taxes as a very small permanent enterprise, such as an ice cream parlour with no seats.

Currently catering trucks and chip wagons only pay \$100 per year for a municipal licence, while hot dog vendors aren't subject to any permit fee.

Seasonal vendors will be able to secure six-month licences for \$600 or quarterly ones for \$400, councillors also decided.

Karen Rossi, who operates a catering truck business, unsuccessfully urged councillors to either roll the fee back to \$500 or freeze competition at its current level by placing a two-year moratorium on additional permits for her competitors.

Ms Rossi said she felt the \$900 increase "was an excessive amount" and that comparing her mobile concern

with a business in a permanent structure was similar to comparing "apples and oranges."

She has "no protection" against competitors who attempt to invade her territory with their trucks, she said, while a permanent structure operator can be reasonably assured someone else won't effectively park on the doorstep.

Ms Rossi described cutthroat competition in her line of work that involved having rivals tail her to identify her clients, with a view to stealing them.

Mr. McQueen said the choice for councillors was whether to follow Ms Rossi's suggestion and suspend further competition or "letting the economy decide how many of these businesses there are in the community."

Ward 2 councillor John Challinor proposed allowing people to purchase licences monthly, but that motion lost when committee chairman Gerry Brooks broke a tie to vote against it.

Municipal staff had complained that monthly permit issuance would raise administration costs. Mr. Challinor countered that the administration was already in place anyway.



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