



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Hair raising experience

Five-year-old Tiffany Wild had loads of fun bouncing on this oversized ball at the Milton Children and Youth Centre's family fun day recently at Victoria Park.

OMB slams council for not defending position

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ing in his neighborhood.
He alleged town and developer planning was inadequately researched and done with limited community knowledge.

Mr. Hunter and two other residents, Allan Herring and Brian Williams, appeared as witnesses. "The developer has brought in experts in an attempt to mask the common sense issues we as residents raised," said Mr. Hunter.

"As I look around the room today I ask myself, 'who is in it for the long run?'"

Sib-Jel, lawyer Gordon Petch said issues were density, the townhouse format, drainage and, through residents' concerns, parking and traffic.

Recognizing early resident opposition to the project, Mr. Petch said expert testimony showed parking and traffic allowances had been "generous."

"I don't think anyone could say why 41 townhouses can't be next to 26 singles (single family homes)."

Acknowledging the land is best suited to townhouses, Mr. Petch said, "there's nothing wrong with townhouses, some very expensive townhouses exist in larger urban areas, more expensive than some single family homes."

"If it's not these four issues, then what is it that's caused this vehemence in the community, to cause council to say no knowing they couldn't even defend it? What is it that causes a neighborhood to get so organized? If it isn't drainage, built form and parking then, regrettably, it must be something else," he added.

"The municipality, for purely political reasons, just turned it down. That left the residents and developer fighting each other, with no direction

from the municipality as to why it would turn it down," noted Mr. Petch.

Testimony often strayed to neighborhood disturbances caused by fair ground events and the fair grounds' future.

Testimony Tuesday from the Halton Agriculture Society was discussed again Thursday, as OMB officers inquired about the potential for broader events such as rock concerts, monster truck shows, rodeos and demolition derbys at the 141-year-old fair grounds.

"Is it reasonable to suggest the agricultural society would turn the fair grounds into a CNE?" asked Mr. Petch, adding the fair grounds has been a good neighbor to nearby homes.

Sib-Jel also wants the OMB to settle site plan details and throw its weight behind a six-month commitment of water servicing for the lands from Halton Region — something that would require regional council direction to veer from a newly-sanctioned first-come, first-served municipal/regional planning policy.

Earlier testimony outlined provincial housing policy calls for 25 per cent of new housing to be affordable. Milton's Official Plan seeks varied housing, including government and special purpose use. Hearing evidence also suggested a need for regional non-profit housing in Milton.

Expert witnesses recommended the proposed rezoning, whether for non-profit or profit development. Residents were opposed to both.

Mr. Petch said minor plan alterations and town approval could change the development to a for-profit enterprise should provincial non-profit funding fall through.

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Wednesday - Friday 8 am - 9 pm	Sunday 10 am - 5 pm