

# Musselman's Lake residents complain

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relationship with his neighbours. "I'm focusing on the dock area. I want to create a better dock space and improve the overall situation," said Swanson.

Swanson said the issues have been all linked to "property standards."

Residents said they've witnessed towing without a spotter in power boats, speed boats operating at night without lights, a houseboat sitting in the middle of the lake without its lights on, oil slicks on the lake, garbage being dumped into the lake, exhaust fumes from boats, people jumping from boats in the middle of the lake and attempting to swim to shore, operating boats with uncovered boat motors and moving commercial vehicles, including an old army truck, on a private road.

Musselman's Lake residents said they have exhausted their options trying to resolve the ongoing dispute with Swanson. Mayor Wayne Emmerson said the town has also exhausted its options trying to restore peace and quiet to the lake. Town clerk and chief bylaw officer Michele Kennedy said, at this time, the town can't speak to the issue because it is presently under review. "But we are pursuing it," said Kennedy.

Residents are considering asking council to further limit the number of boats or the power of the boats allowed at each residential dock. "One boat for each may help the situation," said group spokesman Kevin Wigmore.

Musselman's Lake is one of the few kettle lakes in Ontario that still permits any power boats.

*'We've sent in the bylaw officer, the public health people and the police.'*

"The big problem is, we do not have jurisdiction over the lake," said Emmerson. "We've sent in the bylaw officer, the public health people and the police. He (Swanson) has been charged, he pays the fine, cleans up a bit and then does something else, only to be charged again. It just goes on and on."

While the camp's boats and canoes are kept at Restnook Lane, the 200 children enrolled daily at the Cottage Day Camp are bused to the lake's north side at Cedar Beach where the daytime camp programming takes place.

The residents acknowledge there has never been a serious accident at either the Cottage Day Camp or the Boss Cottage and that children do wear life jackets while in the boats.

Swanson insists he runs a safe operation. The children are well supervised at the camp, said Swanson. "I have a staff of 13. Of those, eight are lifeguards with varying degrees of certification," said Swanson. "We've never had an accident."

Area resident Sue Davis is questioning the qualification of the camp staff as well as the safety aspect of the operation. "There are many people who have very serious concerns about the safety of the children involved in this camp, but I don't know where to turn for help," Davis stressed.

A business license is not required in the operation of a day camp, said town employee Diane Barnes. The Cottage Day Camp is not registered with the Life Saving Association, an association spokesman reported.

Musselman's Lake property owners said other trouble at the Restnook Lane property involves welding with the use of six-foot high cylinder tanks, drilling, power spray painting directly in the water, storage of cars, boats and parts,

floating wood, styrofoam, stray boats and other debris ending up on other lakefront properties.

The welding is associated with building a proper docking system, said Swanson. "Yes, I'm welding. But, it's to do with improving my docking system. It's going on but it's short term," said Swanson.

The noise level of the construction and restoration of boats is, at times, intolerable, said Wigmore.

"Boats are often left running for 20 minutes, giving off noxious fumes, while fuel leaks into the lake and drifts on to other people's property. There are constant leaks in to the lake and shoreline, eroding the shoreline and endangering the fish habitat."

Cedar Beach owner Vern Davies said there is no formal business arrangement between Swanson and himself. "He

(Swanson) is a customer like anyone else," said Davies. "He's our best customer. The issues are between him (Swanson) and his neighbours and have nothing to do with us."

Ward 2 councillor Mark Carroll said he's quite aware that residents of Musselman's Lake feel abandoned. "Something has to be done," said Carroll.

"We have to, all together, give this a thumbs down signal. There is a diminished quality of life because of this situation. I'm sure council will try its best to help these people. The issue of lake ownership is complex."

Still, some residents expect the best place for the issue is in a court of law. "We'll charge that this commercial operation has diminished the quality of life for lake residents," said Wigmore.

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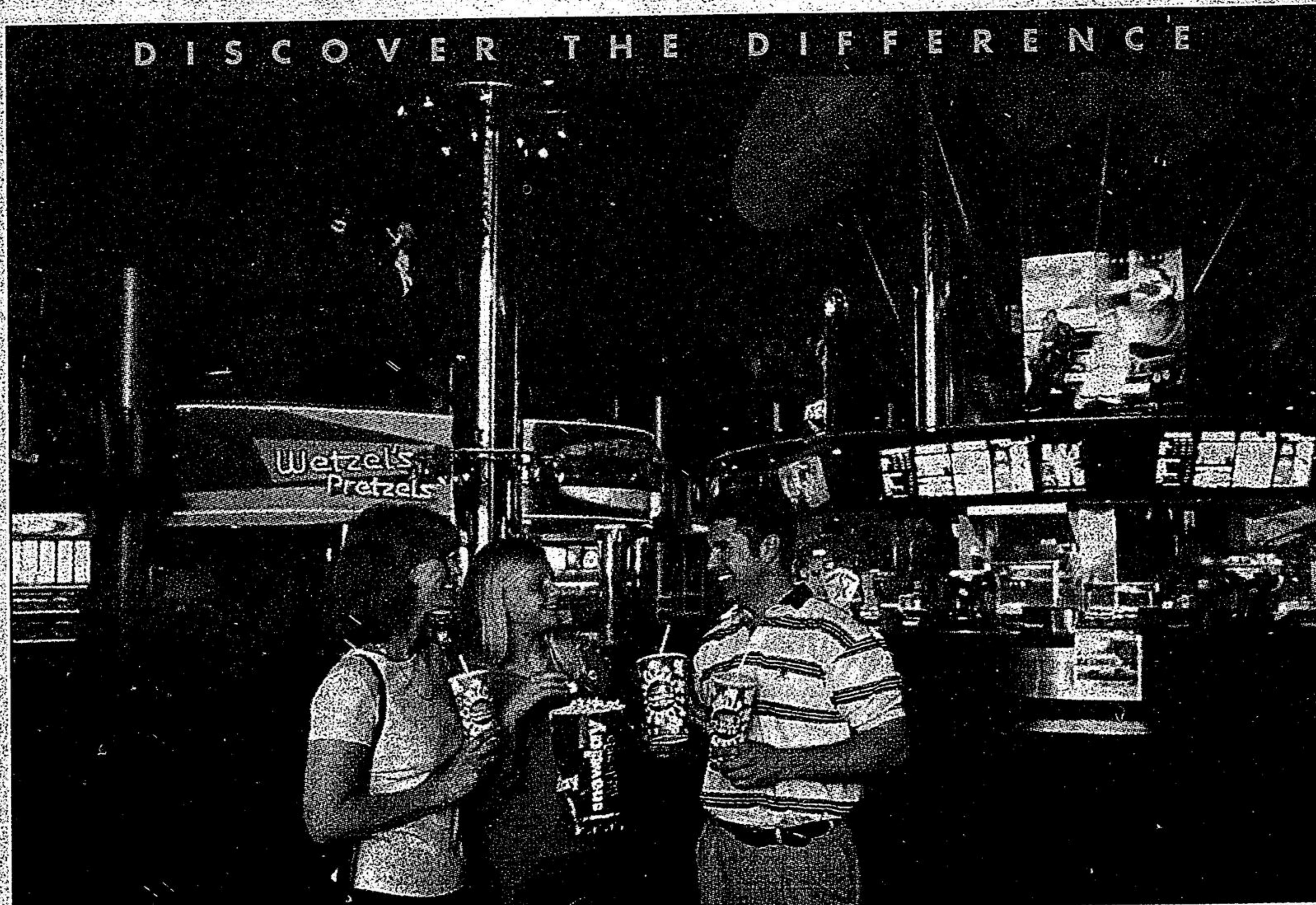
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