

MEDIA RELEASE

148 Line 7 South
Oro-Medonte, Ontario L0L 2E0
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 14, 2015

Charges Related to Events on Burl's Creek Event Grounds

Oro-Medonte, ON – Charges related to the Spring (June 2015) Barrie Automotive Flea Market Event were filed by the Township with the Provincial Court on July 28, 2015. The matter was scheduled to return before the Ontario Court of Justice in Orillia at 9:00 a.m. on October 14, 2015.

The Township has continued its investigations of potential violations during the WayHome and Boots & Hearts Festivals, and the fall Barrie Automotive Flea Market.

After substantial review and consideration of a number of legal factors and implications, Township legal counsel and counsel for Burl's Creek resolved the charges against Burl's Creek today by way of guilty pleas, and a joint position on sentencing was presented to the Court. That joint position was for a significant fine which reflects both the gravity of the offences to which the accused corporations pleaded, as well as the accused corporations' subsequent conduct on the Burl's Creek Event Grounds from June through to September 2015.

Following Burl's Creek's acknowledgement of its violations and conduct with respect to the events, the Court imposed fines of \$75,000 for two zoning violations and \$125,000 for five obnoxious use violations. In light of the guilty pleas and imposed fines, there will be no further prosecution by the Township with respect to the use of the Burl's Creek Event Grounds between June and September 2015.

"This was not an easy decision. Township Council and staff considered many factors that would significantly impact our residents and community. We took into consideration the substantial financial implications associated with legal costs that would result in excessive increases to the Township's tax base," said Deputy Mayor Ralph Hough. "It is important to keep in mind, the decision was made in the best interest of the municipality, our residents, and community as a whole. The agreement holds Burl's Creek liable through their acknowledgment of the violations and agreeing to pay the fine for the offences," he added.

The Township is aware that Burl's Creek has announced events for 2016. Burl's Creek has filed an appeal with the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) for a non-decision on the 2015 Temporary Use By-law application regarding the 344 acres. The decision on the Temporary Use By-law application now rests with the OMB. As well, an application for a permanent rezoning of the lands has also been filed with the Township.

In anticipation to a high volume of media inquiries and requests for interviews, the Township has coordinated a news conference to address questions regarding the outcome of the court proceedings. The news conference is open to media representatives only and will be held with Township staff and legal counsel.

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For clarification, the news conference is not a public meeting or open to the public. It has been coordinated to respond to questions by the media.

Who:	Deputy Mayor Ralph Hough, Township of Oro-Medonte Robin Dunn, Chief Administrative Officer, Township of Oro-Medonte Andria Leigh, Director, Development Services, Township of Oro-Medonte David S. Reiter, Partner, Aird & Berlis, LLP John Mascarin, Partner, Aird & Berlis, LLP
When:	Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.
Where:	Township of Oro-Medonte Administration Centre – Council Chambers 148 Line 7 South, Oro-Medonte, Ontario

Questions or further information from the public may be directed to the Township at 705-487-2171.

Oro-Medonte is a diverse and beautiful community with a central location in Ontario. A community of 20,078 full-time residents, Oro-Medonte covers a land area of 61,000 hectares, stretching from the northern border of Barrie and Lake Simcoe to the southern fringes of Orillia and north to Tay and Severn Townships. For more information, please visit our website at www.oro-medonte.ca.

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Samah Othman
Supervisor, Communications & Customer Service
Tel: (705) 487-2171 ext. 2137
Cell: (705) 794-7048
sothman@oro-medonte.ca