

## BUSINESS

# City tells author: No license, no selling

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Mississauga author Dave Cook has been selling copies of his books at festivals and fairs around town for a decade and he's never had an issue.

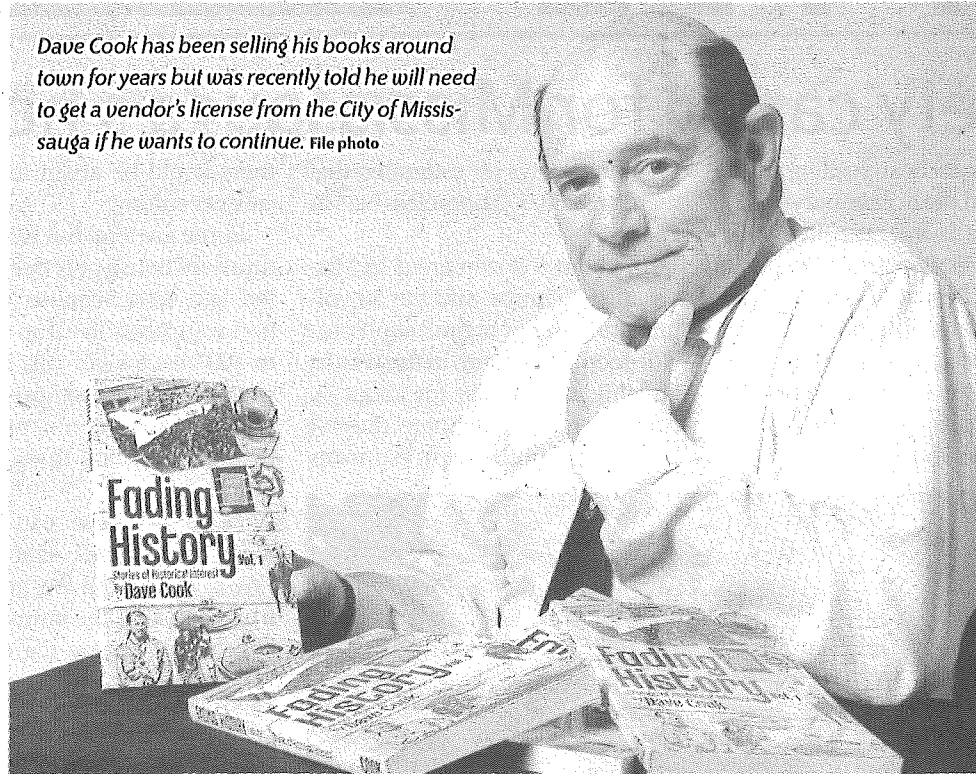
Until, that is, earlier this month when he was told by City of Mississauga bylaw officers that if he wanted to keep selling his books he would have to apply for a municipal vendor's permit.

Cook had purchased a spot at the Streetsville Lions Friends and Farmers' Market for \$35 and was selling copies of his books, which includes *Fading History*, as well as artwork created by a friend and some other heritage books about Mississauga when he was informed he was in contravention of the City's bylaw.

The City requires anyone who has any goods, wares, merchandise, refreshments, food or flowers for sale to have a vendor's license. The license costs \$50 and those who apply for one must also have proof of insurance.

Cook says he was a little surprised when he was told he needed a license as it had never been an issue before. He doesn't blame the City, saying it's just enforcing its rules, but hopes there can be some other alternative for

*Dave Cook has been selling his books around town for years but was recently told he will need to get a vendor's license from the City of Mississauga if he wants to continue. File photo.*



people like him who want to sell a modest number of the items they've created.

He said he's certainly "not making a living" with the books and sells them to help cover his costs.

the City doesn't have something like an artist permit so people can offer their work at these events."

Cook said he called his insurance company and was told there wasn't a policy he qualified for. As well, he said he doesn't believe he falls into any of the categories listed in the licensing bylaw.

Ward 11 Councillor George Carlson is sympathetic to Cook's plight. He's received about a dozen complaints in the past year about the issue from others like Cook who have been told they can't sell their works without a license.

"I'm trying to come up with some method in cooperation with City staff and bylaw to issue some kind of blanket license to the organizations that sponsor these kinds of events so they can (include) the one-off little vendors," said Carlson. "It's a lot of paperwork and rigmarole for a guy like Dave Cook who sells a few books to get a license. Right now, (the small vendors) are being treated as equal with the vendors of some substance.

"Most of them are very small, they add a lot of colour to the festivals and they really don't make a lot of money at it," he continued.



George Carlson