

## **Milton Council Meeting**

**Monday, July 25, 2016**

**Good evening Your Worship Mayor Krantz and members of Milton Council,**

I am speaking on behalf of the Concerned Residents Coalition, a grass-roots community group with more than 1100 supporters, about 30% of whom live in Milton. Many of us spoke to you last September when you stood to vote unanimously to object to the Hidden Quarry application and to request that staff provide information as needed to support the Region's position at any hearings. This moral support has encouraged us as we prepare for the Ontario Municipal Board Hearing which begins on Tuesday, September 27 in the Council Chamber of Guelph Eramosa Township.

We are here tonight to support Councillor Lunau's motion that Milton Council endorse Halton Region's opposition to the Hidden Quarry application. Together with Halton Region and Halton Hills, we will be bringing the testimony of a total of 12 experts to the Hearing. CRC has also engaged lawyers Chris Barnett and Laura Bisset of DLA Piper to represent us at the Hearing.

The CRC expert witnesses are:

Planner Mark Dorfman

Hydrogeologist Garry Hunter

Hydrologist Dr. Hugh Whiteley (who has special knowledge of Blue Springs Creek)

Aquatic Ecologist Dr. Karl Schiefer

Blasting engineer William Hill

Halton Region will address these areas thoroughly as well, while Halton Hills brings traffic impact expertise to the case.

CRC plays a key role in the Hearing because we are a community without borders, bringing together residents from Guelph Eramosa Township, Halton Hills and Milton, and therefore bringing expertise to the case which is comprehensive and integrated, not limited in scope by the arbitrary Highway 7 municipal boundary. The Hidden Quarry application aptly demonstrates, as the expert witnesses will testify, that the natural environment and water resources that will be in jeopardy seamlessly cross that boundary from one municipality—Guelph Eramosa—to another—the Town of Milton.

I hope you have all had time to look at the 3D model on your way in. Susan Strachan Johnson, who built this instructive and precisely measured and annotated model for CRC, is present

tonight. (*Susan to stand*) I will address briefly some of the insights this model illustrates so clearly. The model is built to scale according to a topographical map.

The 3D model puts the proposed Hidden Quarry location into a natural, integrated perspective, rather than a political grid. For example the model outlines the flow of water through the 40 metre drop in elevation to the Blue Springs Creek. The Brydson Creek “watershed” is the significant physical feature into the middle of which the quarry would be blasted. The water flows in a tributary from the higher elevation ponds and wetlands to the north of the quarry site, through the site itself and joins a second tributary right at the municipal border. The Creek ignores the boundary and flows further south to be joined by cold water springs to feed the thriving Brydson Creek brown trout and brook trout habitat and on into the Blue Springs Creek. North is not separable from south when looking at potential impacts on this natural system. Our expert witness, Dr. Karl Schiefer, will address the hitherto unassessed but vital fish habitat of Brydson Creek at the OMB. Please note that the quarry floor would be at about the same elevation as the Blue Springs Creek.

The model also shows that the proposed quarry site is surrounded on all sides by significant natural features which are interconnected and at risk of impacts from a quarry operation. Notably, in Milton, Susan has marked the fact that the Blue Springs Creek and wetland is designated an Environmentally Sensitive Area and Area of Natural Scientific Interest, by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Halton Region. In addition, she notes that the Blue Springs Scout Camp on 6<sup>th</sup> Line Nassagaweya has recently been designated a S.C.E.N.E., or Scout Centre of Excellence for Nature and the Environment, a world Scouting classification, the first so designated in Canada. On the other side of the concession, fronting on the 5<sup>th</sup> Line of Nassagaweya, is a property known as the Bear Den, donated to the Nature Conservancy of Canada in May 2005. In our view, the protection of these areas from blasting vibration, water temperature and level changes, and contamination is paramount.

In the area surrounding the proposed site the model shows many of the household wells and their depths, the many agricultural operations including horse, dairy and beef cattle farms, mushrooms and cash crops, the many species-at-risk and area-sensitive species both on-and off-site and the many beautiful but fragile 19<sup>th</sup> century heritage houses and barns in this rural cultural heritage landscape within 1000 metres of proposed quarry.

Among the five properties within the 1000 metre range where blasting vibrations are estimated to be dangerous to all structures, there is one 19<sup>th</sup> century log house in Milton and 6 stone houses and/or bank barns in Eramosa, lovingly restored and maintained, built on field stone foundations. There are many other remarkable and distinctive heritage buildings constructed of stone or with rubble stone foundations in Milton just beyond the 1000 metre range. We will be leaving the inventory report with you tonight.

Finally, the model brings to the viewer’s attention the serious weaknesses in the proponent’s site plans, notably: 1. the Brydson Creek tributary and .4 hectare wetland will be perched

precariously on a narrow causeway with a potentially unstable overburden of several metres of top soil, sand and gravel and with narrow buffers of 20 to 30 metres between two 100-foot cliffs and at the blasting epicentre of the proposal, an experimental, underwater blasting proposal; and 2. the fact that the large operations area, tool shop, the temporary storage, the weigh scales, the crushers, the stock piles, the washing pond, and the silt ponds, will have nowhere to go when the third phase of the quarry is excavated.

These are just some of the observations which have led the CRC to pursue with increasing vigour its research, and into which the experts will probe with their tools of measurement and modelling, and knowledge of planning.

CRC's stated mission is "to make every effort to promote and support a thorough and fair assessment of the HQ application...and to provide reasonable, factual, science-based information to the deliberation process." This mission is predicated on the fact that the Aggregate Resources Act, the Provincial Policy Statement and the Halton Region and Wellington County Official Plans all require thorough analysis of potential impacts of proposed aggregate developments on the community and environment.

As Milton and region residents, we have taken this responsibility very seriously, and have been buoyed by Halton Region's parallel concerns. In light of the fact that the Town of Milton registered its objections to the quarry application, and that, to our knowledge the Town's concerns have not been resolved, we fully support Councillor Lunau's motion that the Town of Milton publicly endorse Halton Region's opposition. The public endorsement from this Halton Region town, which would be so deeply impacted by the proposed quarry, is of the highest importance to its residents and to the Ontario Municipal Board's understanding of the depth of concern about the proposed Hidden Quarry.

Thank you.