



Concerned Residents Coalition

Working to Protect Your Community and Environment

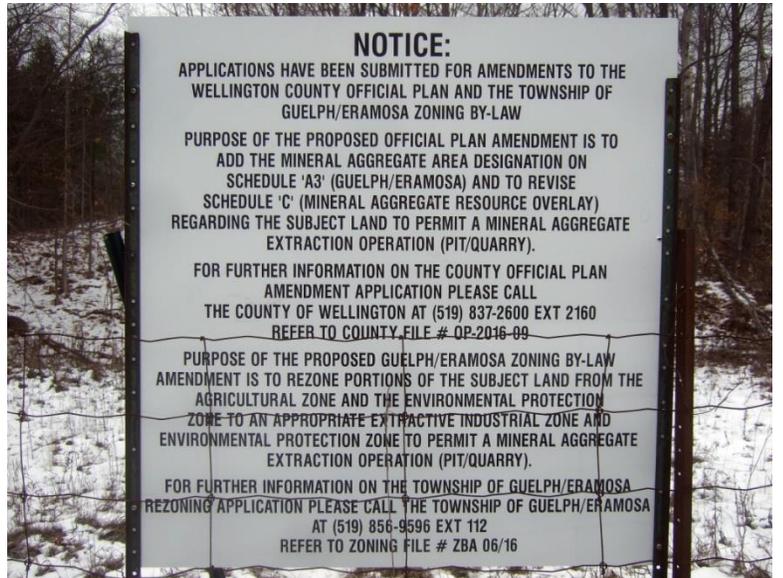
Newsletter December 10, 2016

BREAKING NEWS!

JDCL Submits Hidden Quarry Application to Wellington County and Guelph Eramosa Township

Well, here we go again! As we expected after the October adjournment of the OMB Hearing on the Hidden Quarry, JDCL is re-applying for re-zoning of the proposed site. The new Notice Signs are up!

But this time there is a difference. This time the company must not only apply to GET for re-zoning, but also to Wellington County for an amendment to the [County Official Plan \(OPA-81\)](#). The Official Plan was revised in 2015 to require County approval of re-zoning. The proposed HQ site is now designated in some detail, with an eye to its environmental characteristics. These designations include “Greenlands”, “Core Greenlands” and Prime Agricultural across the property. The property also contains “Significant Woodlands” according to the OPA-81 description – more than 10 hectares. The site is in the Galt-Paris Moraine. The new JDCL application must address OPA 81’s detailed requirements to over-ride any of these designations.



You should also note that OPA-81, as required by the province, overlays the site with designations of identified “Sand and Gravel deposits of Primary and Secondary Significance” as well as “Selected Bedrock” resources. As we have indicated in the past, JDCL has a good reason to mine aggregate here, and, no doubt, in the area surrounding this relatively small Hidden Quarry site. The Official Plan attempts to balance the assessment of resource exploitation applications with environmental protection.

What does this mean for CRC?

First, the good news! Our environmental concerns, key to our objection to the application, are reflected in the new “green” OPA-81 designations on the property which JDCL must address. This is great! Last fall, we were going to refer to the new Official Plan at the OMB Hearing, in an effort to make its new policies apply, but now it is not optional. We have also gained more time to expand on and refine our arguments.

Second, the challenge! JDCL will attempt to show that all concerns relative to the environment can be mitigated...and that the company will meet the standards, that, for example, “ground and surface water functions will be maintained and where possible, restored and enhanced.” As you know, JDCL had been improving the application in response to GET’s conditions.

This fall, JDCL was on the site drilling – The company is collecting more data to support their case and to respond to GET questions/conditions.



Third, there's a new player in the room! Because Wellington County was not required to play a role in the original assessment of the application, CRC must now make the County Planning Committee and County Council aware of our concerns and arguments. In a way, we are beginning all over again. We will make delegations and we must show strong community concern through attendance at these sessions. Already, CRC President Doug Tripp has met with the County's CAO, Scott Wilson and Director of Planning Gary Cousins to make them aware of the work CRC has done and to discuss the appropriate approaches to County Council. (As you may know, GET has two representatives on County Council, Mayor Chris White and Doug Breen, former GET Councillor, along with the mayors and representatives of all municipalities in the County.)

Fourth, we'll have new expenses! We have to assess what it will take to re-launch. We were thrilled that our fund-raising was able to support our estimated OMB expenses (legal and expert) last fall, including \$95,000 from our local municipalities. *Thank you to all our generous donors.* We have not spent all the funds we raised, but our experts and lawyers will have to re-visit the case, review all the new JDCL documents, and in some cases revise or expand their arguments. We may need to add expertise and studies to our roster. We will certainly have to repeat Pre-Hearings with all the costs they entail. Over the next weeks we will be building a budget to share with all our supporters.

Sad OMB Note: We have sad news about Steven Stefanko, the OMB Vice-Chair who was hearing the Hidden Quarry case, and who was going to stay with it when/if it was appealed to the OMB again. He has suffered a serious heart attack. We must assume that he will not return. We are sorry to share this news because we had been encouraged by his thoughtful approach to adjudication, and because he had absorbed some of the content of the case.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Everyone on the CRC Board hopes you have enjoyed the brief quarry-less interlude this fall after the unexpected OMB adjournment. We too have taken a break without ever losing sight of what was urgently needed to be done. In the New Year we must all be up to speed again! For now, collect your bottle refunds and renew your CRC membership. Savour the season. And recharge your batteries for another year. Your support of the CRC is a great gift to the community. It's wrapped and waiting under all our trees – Thanks to you all.

PS: Please find attached a copy of the CRC letter responding to the call for comments on the provincial review of the OMB. If you want to comment as an individual, the deadline is December 15. Go to: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page14965.aspx#How+to+participate>

EXTRA! EXTRA! On the next page you will find, FYI, a summary chronology of our shared experience since 2013.

Hidden Quarry Application Chronology

Fall 2012: JDCL applies to Ministry of Natural Resources (MNRF) for licence to mine aggregate and applies to Guelph Eramosa Township for an amendment to the zoning of proposed site from Agricultural to Industrial (extractive).

March 25, 2013: GET holds public meeting to introduce project and to receive public reactions. Residents fill the hall to raise their concerns.

April 2013 – ongoing: Concerned Residents Coalition is formed. Dozens of residents submit letters of objection to MNRF, and give the first of what will become a series of 24 delegations to GET on all the issues over the next three years. CRC also meets with GRCA, MNRF and all local municipalities to present their concerns.

June 2014: CRC Rockwood Inc. is incorporated as non-profit.

February 2015: MNRF Application period complete – Confirmation of Objection letters submitted by residents and municipalities.

May 2015: JDCL appeals zoning and licence applications to the OMB.

September 2015: Milton Council votes unanimously to object to the Hidden Quarry application.

November 9, 2015: First OMB Pre-Hearing. CRC, Halton Region, Halton Hills and Guelph-Eramosa Township are Parties. More than 70 residents sign up as participants. Wellington Water Watchers signs up as participant.

March 1, 2016: Second OMB Pre-Hearing. Issues lists are presented to OMB by all Parties.

May 5, 2016: Third OMB Pre-Hearing - OMB Schedule set.

June 27, 2016: GET Council opposes Hidden Quarry re-zoning application but will present no expert witnesses at Hearing; also donates \$75,000 to CRC to support cost of expert witnesses. CRC supporters now number 1200+.

July 25, 2016: Milton Council unanimously endorses Halton Region's opposition to Hidden Quarry. The Town will be represented by Halton Region at the OMB.

August 25, 2016: Milton Council unanimously approves a donation of \$10,000 to CRC to support cost of expert witnesses.

September 27, 2016: OMB Hearing begins with adjudicator Vice-Chair Stefan Stefanko. Mr. Stefanko hears overview of JDCL proposal before stopping proceedings to consider that the JDCL application was made under a bylaw repealed and replaced in August 2016.

October 13, 2016: OMB Hearing adjourned indefinitely, pending new re-zoning application from JDCL to GET and Wellington County.

October 17, 2016: Halton Hills donates \$15,000 to CRC.

November 2016: JDCL re-applies to GET and makes new application to Wellington County for re-zoning. CRC sharpens its pens!!