



Concerned Residents Coalition

Media Release

Concerned Residents Coalition to attend Guelph-Eramosa Township Special Meeting on proposed Hidden Quarry

Rockwood, ON – August 4, 2014...Members of the Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC) are planning to attend and participate in a **Special Meeting of Guelph Eramosa (GET) Township Council** regarding the revised zoning requested by James Dick Construction Limited (JDCL) for the company's proposed **"Hidden Quarry."** The meeting will take place on **August 12, 2014 at 7 pm at Rockmosa Community Centre in Rockwood.**

The purpose of the Special Meeting is for the Council to receive the preliminary planning report on the application from Township Planner, Macaulay Shiomi Howson Ltd. (MSH). The report will summarize the work undertaken to date and make recommendations on next steps for Council's consideration.

The proposed "Hidden Quarry" site is located at Hwy. 7 (West of Toronto, East of Guelph) and Eramosa 6th Line in an agricultural area, just a kilometre away from hundreds of Rockwood homes, and within 500 metres of at least 20 private wells. JDCL has applied for re-zoning in order to excavate a pit and dig a quarry which would be as deep as 30 metres below the water table. In order for the pit/quarry to be approved, Township Council would have to approve the re-zoning of agricultural land to "extractive industrial."

While the proposed site is in Guelph Eramosa Township, Milton/Nassagaweya is immediately south of the site, on the other side of Hwy. 7 and residents would be equally impacted. Halton Region has just submitted a letter to GET addressing hydrogeological issues which have a direct impact on residents south of the proposed site. Halton Region, Halton Hills (on the proposed haul route) and the Town of Milton will all be submitting comments to GET through the review process.

Like many Southern Ontario rural municipalities, Guelph Eramosa is facing industrial proposals resulting from the galloping development of cities and highways stretching out from the GTA, proposals which are impacting the province's water supply and food production, and changing the face of Canada's agricultural communities. In fact, Ontario's farmland is disappearing at the rate of 350 acres a day.

Immediately after the first public meeting about the proposed Hidden Quarry held by Guelph Eramosa Township Council in March 2013, the Concerned Residents Coalition was established and now has more than 700 members.

Over the past year and a half, CRC has made 14 presentations to the GET Council about their concerns in reports that have been forwarded to Township's consultants MSH. Many highly qualified, knowledgeable and experienced individuals within the group have volunteered thousands of hours to the assessment of application documents and the preparation of detailed reports that have shed additional light on the implications of the proposal to operate a quarry in the heart of the community. To address those areas outside the group's expertise, CRC has hired highly respected experts to prepare additional scientific assessments and reports.

The issues addressed have included air quality and water resources, health and safety, blasting, agricultural and economic impacts. Research is ongoing. The CRC website www.hiddenquarry.ca includes many of these presentations on its media page. **These presentations, questions and requests**

...continued on page 2



Concerned Residents Coalition

for further study have been forwarded to the Planning Consultants for inclusion in their review, as well as to other agencies including the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Grand River Conservation Authority, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Halton Region, and the Town of Milton.

The CRC's mission is the following:

- CRC is a Citizen Organization representing the interests of communities that may be affected by operations of the proposed Hidden Quarry, including Guelph Eramosa Township, the Town of Rockwood, the Village of Eden Mills, Halton Hills, Milton and Halton Region.
- CRC is making every effort to promote and support a thorough and fair assessment of the HQ application. Further, if the application is successful, CRC will require that the proposed operations are completely safe and free of adverse impacts on the water, air and other aspects of the natural environment, heritage, homes and businesses of the communities.
- CRC will provide reasonable, factual, science-based information to the deliberation process, and will look for equally responsible and thorough input from all parties to the quarry application.

Given the CRC's goal to support a fair and thorough assessment of the application, the preliminary planning report from MSH is a key step in the process. The fact that it is a public presentation is welcomed by CRC. A copy of this planning report will be available on August 8, 2014 on the Township's website at www.get.on.ca/hiddenquarry. CRC will study the report at that time to prepare questions and comments for the meeting. All reports and documentation that have been received by the Township throughout the process have also been posted on the GET website over the past several months, including the recent letter from Halton Region.

Media contact for CRC: Linda Sword 519-853-1896/lsword@xplornet.ca

Details:

Tuesday, August 12, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Rockmosa Community Centre
74 Christie Street in Rockwood

CRC Media contact: Linda Sword 519-853-1896 lsword@xplornet.ca

CRC website: www.hiddenquarry.ca