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Region concerned about Hidden Quarry

By Julia Le

Metroland Media Group

A proposed quarry near Rockwood strongly opposed by local residents in the Township of Guelph/Eramosa is getting heat from neighbouring towns.



Over the last couple of months councillors and staff from the Towns of Halton Hills and Milton have been brought up to speed on the issue, along with councillors and staff from Halton Region.

A report prepared by the Region's legislative and planning services department outlining the application put forward by Bolton-based company James Dick Construction to the Township of Guelph-Eramosa was discussed during Regional council's planning and public works committee Wednesday.

Members voiced their concern about how it will affect Halton Hills, Milton and the Region of Halton as a whole while supporting staff recommendations endorsing a letter of objection that was sent to the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding James Dick Construction's request for an quarry licence where 700,000 tonnes of aggregate will be extracted from 24.8 hectares of the Hidden Quarry annually.

The construction company has also asked the Township of Guelph-Eramosa to rezone the 39.3-hectare site on the north side of Highway 7, approximately 7.5 kilometres west of Acton and located just 35 metres north of the municipal boundary of Milton. Planning approvals have yet to be given.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette expressed his displeasure with the construction company's oversight in notifying neighbouring towns that would be affected by its proposed work.

He said the Hidden Quarry application has serious implications on Halton's roads.

"I'm really disappointed with the applicant of Hidden Quarry," he told fellow members of the committee. "They call it Hidden Quarry, but I almost wonder what they have to hide because you'd think they'd have come to Halton Hills and you'd think they'd come to Halton Region. If you're going to open a business and know you're going to have impacts, you'd think they would've at least circulated something."

Milton Councillor Colin Best echoed Bonnette's disappointment, adding that he'd like Regional staff to educate the Township of Guelph/Eramosa on how it could better notify them about applications made in its town that could affect Halton residents.

"It's a concern," he said. "We have something on our borders that's going to impact Halton."

Regional council will be receiving recommendations from staff to endorse the letter of objection sent to the Ministry of Natural Resources for final approval at its meeting this coming Wednesday (May 29).

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