



## Concerned Residents Coalition

### Media Release

## CRC Receives \$70,000 donation from Guelph Eramosa Township

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Guelph Eramosa Township approved a donation of \$70,000 to the Concerned Residents Coalition at a special meeting on June 27, 2016. The funds will assist CRC in paying the high costs of bringing expert witnesses to the OMB Hearing on the Hidden Quarry scheduled to begin this fall, on September 27. GET Council also announced that they will not be bringing any expert witnesses to the Hearing.

GET Council passed a motion which stated Township's opposition to the proposal by James Dick Construction Limited for open-pit mining and instructed Council's lawyer, Eileen Costello, to inform the OMB Chair of this position and to "request that the OMB refuse the rezoning application and extraction licence." Mayor White stated that: "The potential impacts related to blasting and to water quality and quantity provide an unacceptable level of risk to our community. There is no demonstrated overall benefit to our Township."

The funds are a boost to CRC's ongoing fund-raising campaign. According to CRC President Doug Tripp, "The very generous contributions by hundreds of community residents are enabling us to bring pertinent and compelling assessments of the application to the OMB hearing. The community will be encouraged by GET Council's support and recognition of their concerns and efforts over the past 3 years." Rather than being taken from general property tax-based funds, the Township is using the Rockwood Hydro Fund as the source of the funding, since it is designated specifically for the benefit of the Rockwood community.

Mayor White explained Council's decision not to bring expert witnesses to the Hearing: "Township consultants determined that potential risks could be mitigated through conditions." Approval conditions were identified in the Planning Report received by GET Council in the fall of 2015, and were incorporated into Council's motion to oppose the Hidden Quarry application and to be a Party at the OMB. CRC expressed concern at the time that the conditions weakened Council's opposition stand. CRC has stated repeatedly that we cannot conceive of conditions that would adequately mitigate the negative impacts of this new, underwater mining operation.

Therefore, CRC acknowledges with appreciation GET's confidence in and support for its work over the past three and a half years, and its role as a community voice at the OMB Hearing. Halton Region and Halton Hills Councils, who also object to the application, will be presenting compelling expert testimony at the Hearing. CRC supporters come from all communities surrounding the Hidden Quarry including Guelph Eramosa Township, and Halton Region (Milton, Halton Hills).

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 Wellington Official Plan all require thorough analysis of potential impacts on the community and environment.

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Since the quarry application was made public in March 2013, CRC has made more than 20 delegations to GET Council, including several expert opinions, drawing attention to the serious risks the quarry proposal entails. CRC will be bringing 5 expert witnesses to the OMB. They will address the following aspects of the application: planning (Mark Dorfman, FCIP, RPP), blasting (William Hill, P. Eng.), hydrology (Dr. Hugh Whiteley, PhD, P.Eng.), hydrogeology (Garry Hunter, M.A.Sc., P. Eng.) and natural environment (Aquatic Ecologist Dr. Karl Schiefer, PhD). Several local residents will make participant statements as well. CRC will be represented by lawyers Chris Barnett and Laura Bisset of DLA Piper in Toronto.

CRC is holding two major fund-raisers in the fall. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual CRC Golf Tournament, *DriveForeCRC*, takes place on Friday, September 9 at Turtle Creek Golf Club ([www.driveforecrc.ca](http://www.driveforecrc.ca)). An exciting October concert fundraiser will be announced soon.

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