

The ROCKWOOD Miller

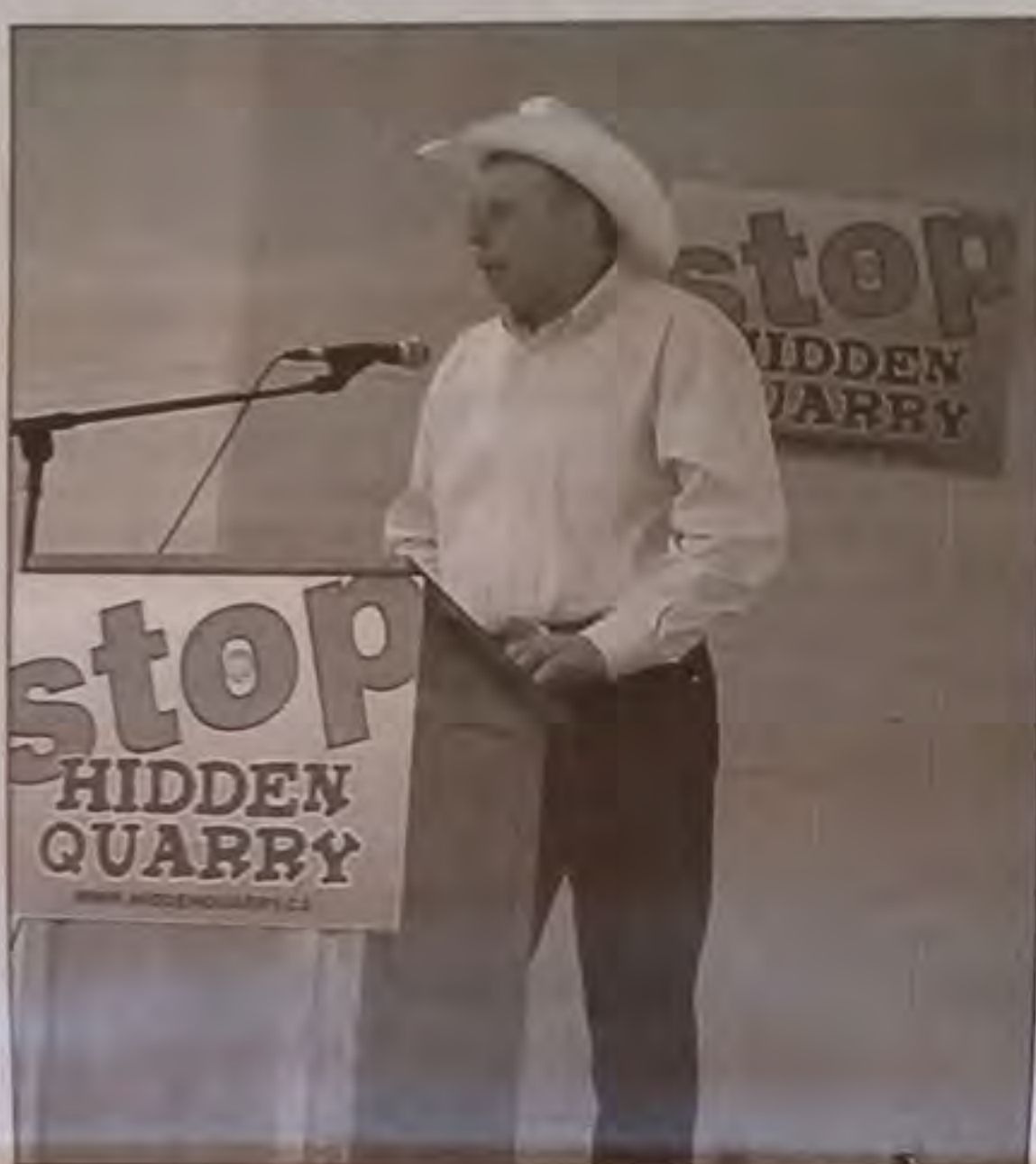
Quarry opponents continue to marshal support and data

Scientific assessments of environmental data, growing membership, raising money and preparing for the October municipal election – those are some of the next steps of the Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC) in its fight against plans for a quarry on Highway 7, between Acton and Rockwood.

The group, which hopes to gain a more official voice by incorporating as a not-profit organization, was formed last March after James Dick Construction applied to open a gravel pit on the north-east corner of Highway 7 and the Sixth Line. The plan needs municipal zoning approval and a provincial licence.

A crowd of approximately 100 people at Rockmosa last Monday night heard shortened versions of CRC presentations to Guelph/Eramosa Township Council on the so-called Hidden Quarry and its potential impact of local agri-businesses, and the dangers of blasting.

The family of CRC member and Treasurer



Natalie Jaroszewski owns W and T Mushrooms, located 100-metres from the proposed quarry. Of their many concerns, she said dust is the “most risky” as it delivers bacteria and moulds, which are “death to mushrooms.”

Dick’s proposal to blast under water would “blast a literal hole in the heart of our community,” according to CRC member Harry Wilson, said their concerns include groundwater contamination, vibration and noise damage, risk to provincially-significant wetlands, decreased property values and destruction of wildlife habitat.

The dangers of fly rock – literally rocks great distances in a blast were detailed in a report from mining engineer Bill Hill, a Sixth Line resident, which was presented by his daughter, Mary. In an earlier letter to Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott, Hill said travelling between Acton and Rockwood would be dangerous during blasting because almost two-kilometres of road is in what would be an exclusion zone for blasting in many countries. “The inherent risks are so high that the highway should either be relocated out of

the danger zone, or that the Hidden Quarry operation should not be allowed to proceed,” Hill wrote.

CRC member Michael Venhuis, a geoscientist who lives on the Seventh Line about 750-metres from the proposed pit, is concerned with the lack of answers about blasting impacts on fragile Kasrt bedrock in the area, which is a significant groundwater recharge area.

In moving ahead, CRC member Doug Tripp noted their mission statement includes the goal of making every effort to promote and support a thorough and fair assessment of the Hidden Quarry application to protect the community and environment. He said the group is committed to its input being “reasonable, factual and science-based.”

The group received a pep talk in successful quarry opposition from Shelburne rancher Carl Cosack who helped fight a proposed mega-quarry in Melancton, in the Shelburne area.

He congratulated the CRC for doing in 10 months what it took his group four years to do, and reminded the crowd they were “all in it together.”



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