

The ROCKWOOD Miller



Concerned Residents Coalition still concerned

The Concerned Residents Coalition, launched in March 2013 and now more than 700 supporters strong, enters 2015 with as much energy and determination as ever as it pursues its efforts to secure a fair and thorough evaluation of James Dick Construction Limited's (JDCL) application to establish a pit and quarry (Hidden Quarry) in Guelph Eramosa Township (GET).

There are two applications pending on the Hidden Quarry site: 1. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) licence to extract aggregate; 2. Guelph Eramosa Township approval to re-zone the site from agricultural to industrial/extractive.

The onus is on GET Township to assess the real, local impacts of re-zoning. Without re-zoning, the pit and quarry cannot proceed, whether or not MNR approves a licence. For this reason, since April 2013 CRC has been presenting delegations to GET Council, delegations designed to provide new perspectives and scientific analysis to Council members, to

insist that the evaluation process undertaken by GET is transparent, fair and thorough and to recommend further essential studies and peer reviews. CRC's analysis has been supplemented by the work of several expert consultants. Studies recommended by CRC to GET on haul routes, economic impact and agricultural impact are currently underway.

The James Dick Construction Limited application to the Ministry of Natural Resources is approaching the two-year mark, at which time the proponent must demonstrate to the Ministry that there are no outstanding objections to the pit/quarry proposal. Individual residents who made formal objections in the spring of 2013 are currently receiving a written, generic response from JDCL in which the company indicates that, in their opinion, all concerns regarding a large number of issues including blasting, natural environment, noise, air and water quality, etc. have been addressed by the company through

changes in plans and monitoring procedures, for example.

CRC's initial reaction to this response from JDCL is that it is premature, vague and subjective and that it does not adequately address many of the substantive issues which have been raised during the last two years. Moreover, it is not clear what status, if any, this letter has in the MNR process. CRC will prepare a detailed analysis of the document.

Located at the intersection of Eramosa sixth Line and Highway 7, just 1000 metres east of a densely populated Rockwood suburb, the proposed site is a highway's width from Milton's Green Belt and the proposed haul route passes through Halton Hills. Therefore three municipalities (and both Wellington County and Halton Region) would be affected by this mining proposal application if it were approved.

CRC will be making delegations to GET Council on Monday, February 2 and Tuesday, February 17.