



Concerned Residents Coalition

Working to Protect Your Community and Environment

Media Release

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Hidden Quarry Proposal Appealed to OMB by JDCL for Second Time

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

James Dick Construction Limited (JDCL) has appealed the Hidden Quarry application for re-zoning to the OMB for the second time. In this case, neither Guelph Eramosa Township nor Wellington County had made a decision within the time frames stipulated by the Planning Act. The Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC) is now preparing for this second legal undertaking. The OMB has not yet proposed dates for the Hearing.

Under the Act, municipalities have 120 days from the date of application to respond to a re-zoning proposal, and Counties have 180 days to respond to an application to amend an Official Plan. In this case, JDCL had re-applied in December 2016. Proponents can choose to wait for municipal or county studies and deliberations to be completed, but they have the right to appeal at any time after the regulation number of days has elapsed.

Because the case will be heard by the OMB, both Guelph Eramosa Township and Wellington County will be required to take a position on the application before the Hearing. CRC has provided both Councils with its findings based on expert studies funded by the grassroots organization.

In October 2016, the original OMB Hearing on the Hidden Quarry was adjourned indefinitely because the municipal bylaw under which JDCL had applied had been replaced. The concurrent application to the province for an aggregate licence under the Aggregate Resources Act was put on hold at that time. JDCL re-submitted its application for re-zoning to GET in December. At that time, due to 2015 amendments to the Official Plan, it was also required to apply to Wellington County for an Official Plan amendment.

It appears that Wellington County has not yet completed its planning and technical studies of the proposal. In the meantime, the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) has changed its position on the Hidden Quarry, recommending further hydro-geological studies be undertaken by the proponent. The GRCA advises both municipalities and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry on water protection implications of aggregate proposals. Recent scientific analysis undertaken by CRC experts had brought to the attention of the GRCA new and serious issues raised by this application to mine aggregate in the Paris-Galt Moraine and in the Blue Springs Creek watershed. Potential risks to both private wells and Rockwood's municipal water supply were identified.

CRC has made a serious investment in the scientific analysis of the quarry proposal. The organization now has more than 1300 supporters and hundreds of donors. CRC was a Party to the OMB hearing on the Hidden Quarry which was adjourned last fall due to a legal technicality. Halton Hills, Milton, Halton Region and Guelph Eramosa Township all join CRC in objecting to the application.

The proposed quarry site is just 1000 metres from the growing Town of Rockwood and a new municipal well; it is 50 metres from Provincial Highway 7; it is just kilometres from the already crowded Acton and Georgetown streets which double as Highway 7; it is a designated 'Greenlands' and 'Core Greenlands' in the Official Plan featuring a provincially significant wetland, a tributary of Brydson Creek and almost 100 acres of trees, both old growth woodland and plantation; it is surrounded by wetlands and is upstream from the precious cold water Brydson Creek trout habitat and the Blue Springs Creek Area of National Scientific Interest.

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