

CRC's newest ambassador is Brookville grade 5 student

By: Vivien Fleisher

Before Christmas, Rockwood's Concerned Resident's Coalition (CRC) got the best gift of all when Brookville grade five student Rand Smith Peter chose the Hidden Quarry for his upcoming community project. Rand reached out to the CRC and "Water Warrior" activist Autumn Peltier—who recently spoken to the United Nations about water protection—and his efforts have paid off: his YouTube channel features the CRC-made video "Mama Knows Best" that explains how blasting threatens the Paris-Galt moraine beneath the proposed site and has been viewed 600 times. With the January 16th presentation to his social studies class looming, he preformed dry-run at Everton artist Susan Johnson's house using her 3-D model of the proposed quarry, including a simulated explosion mimicking James Dick's (JDCL) plan to blast below the water table in close proximity to Brydson Creek—the last untouched clear-water creek in Ontario, which will be destroyed should the quarry get the go-ahead at the LPAT hearings this May.

Rand explained that the community project is about a "good act of citizenship around your community" like giving at Christmas,



but he's donated his unused toys and supported the Terry Fox Foundation for years and wanted to do something he'd never ever done before. His mom Sarah said, "we didn't realize it was going to be this big." New to the community, Sarah said Rand's topic really dialled them into the area and people they never would have met had it not been for his school project. Rand started off looking at all the positives and negatives of a quarry, touring the subject area with retired teacher Harry Wilson. After learning the impacts of blasting, it became clear to him that clean water affects us all and is just too important. His act of good citizenship was to tell as many people as possible about the threat to that water by the quarry. Rand's best work is bringing attention to moraines and their role in the clean water we currently enjoy, saying, "blasting under the water table level is unproven; the

effects are unknown. There could be even more damage done than anyone has ever considered." Susan Johnson had to expand her model after learning more land to the west had been purchased by a company with ties to JDCL, right next to Rockwood Well No. 4, which if polluted would become the responsibility of Rockwood residents and not those extracting the aggregate. Rand concluded his presentation with the statement "Quarries should not be allowed on moraines." Asked what has surprised him the most throughout this journey, Rand said "Mostly just how easy (it is) to (quarry) that close to the wetlands and they're supposedly allowing it." Rand also donated all his Christmas money to help fight the quarry—\$150—and plans to keep helping long after his project is presented. To view Rand's YouTube channel, visit: <https://bit.ly/2EB9mil>