

Rules eased on Escarpment quarries

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Georgetown Gemini

United Aggregates Limited (UAL) and other long-time quarry operators on the Niagara Escarpment do not require permits for most of their mining operations under new rules announced recently by Environment Minister Norm Sterling.

Under the new regulation, quarry companies can cut trees, remove soil and rock to the water table level in the Niagara Escarpment area before having to apply for a development permit from the Niagara Escarpment Commission — the watchdog of the world-renowned landmark.

The legislation overturns two court judgments against UAL that said the company required a development permit for expansion plans at the Acton Quarry. The Minister said the regulation just re-establishes the practice for permits that existed before UAL lost the court battles, but several environmental groups accuse the government of doing an end-run around the law protecting the escarpment.

In late summer, environmental groups were angered when the province proposed a regulation to exempt UAL and other aggregate producers from requiring Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Area per-

mits. The new regulation means that companies will still need a permit at the point when their quarry reaches the water table and they need to pump water to mine the limestone.

Local environmentalist Rita Landry, who, with the help of the Sierra Legal Defence Fund, privately charged UAL with mining without a required development permit, said that the new regulation sends three troubling messages to Ontarians.

"First, it says that when citizens want to enforce environmental laws, the government may change the rules to benefit industry. Second, it sends the message that the government believes the unique and treasured escarpment is no longer worth protecting. And it sends the message that, despite a Ministerial change in the Environment and Energy portfolio, the Harris anti-environment agenda is full-steam ahead," Landry said, noting that the private prosecution against UAL will continue.

NEC Director Nars Borodczak said he expected that the Commission would look favourably on the new regulation.

"All it does is confirm that the way we were doing business in the past was the right way, so we lost no authority," Borodczak explained last week. "We will be expecting UAL to file for a development permit."



HI-TECH WIZARDS: Glen and Judy Harrison, owners of Ashteq Business Systems, Georgetown. The Streetsville couple decided to open their business in Mountainview Plaza after scouting the area and finding Georgetown has a great business climate.

Town supports GTA marketing plan

Saying that the Town's future depends on the co-operation and participation of economic development within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Halton Hills

Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson urged Council to be part of a new GTA private-partnership marketing alliance, last week.

Although councillors agreed they would support the initiative, they had questions about how much it would cost.

The GTA Marketing Alliance will market the competitive advantages and business opportunities in the GTA to prospective investors, and Serjeantson, named as an alternate Halton representative on the GTA Marketing Alliance Board, pitched its benefits at last week's Council meeting.

"In my estimation we have the most to gain, especially in our situation," Serjeantson said, noting that the Town was 20 minutes from the airport and close to both the 401 and 407.

"Our whole industrial designation for the future is green fields.

"We need as much economic exposure as we can get and we should be there (at the GTA Marketing Alliance)

fighting for our fair share," Serjeantson said, adding that the Town didn't have the money for an effective marketing campaign.

Each of the five regions in the GTA will be required to pay \$80,000 annually to belong to the Marketing Alliance and Serjeantson said she thought it would be fair to have the Region pay \$40,000 and each of the four municipalities pay \$10,000.

Ward 4 Councillor Al Cook noted that the budget request was for this year only and questioned if the Town's share would automatically increase next year. That led Serjeantson to suggest that Council join for this year and re-assess involvement next year.

Serjeantson also said that she is attempting to find sources to supplement the Town's share of membership and will report back.

Other members in the alliance are 35 local and regional municipalities, and the GTA Boards and Chambers, representing the private sector.

Gas bar-car wash approved

The owner of a proposed gas bar-car wash at the eastern entrance to Georgetown will have to be environmentally-conscience and recycle the water used.

Subject to site plan approval, the gas station-car wash will open on the former Little's Trailer Sales property at the corner of McFarlane Drive and Guelph Street. Council approved a Committee of Adjustment decision to amend the bylaw to allow a drive-through, touchless car wash as an accessory use on the property.

Eighty-four per cent of residents in the neighbouring Sands Condominium oppose the plan, complaining that it would cause noise and traffic problems, but the Committee said those issues could be resolved through the Site Plan process.

Operation Impact successful

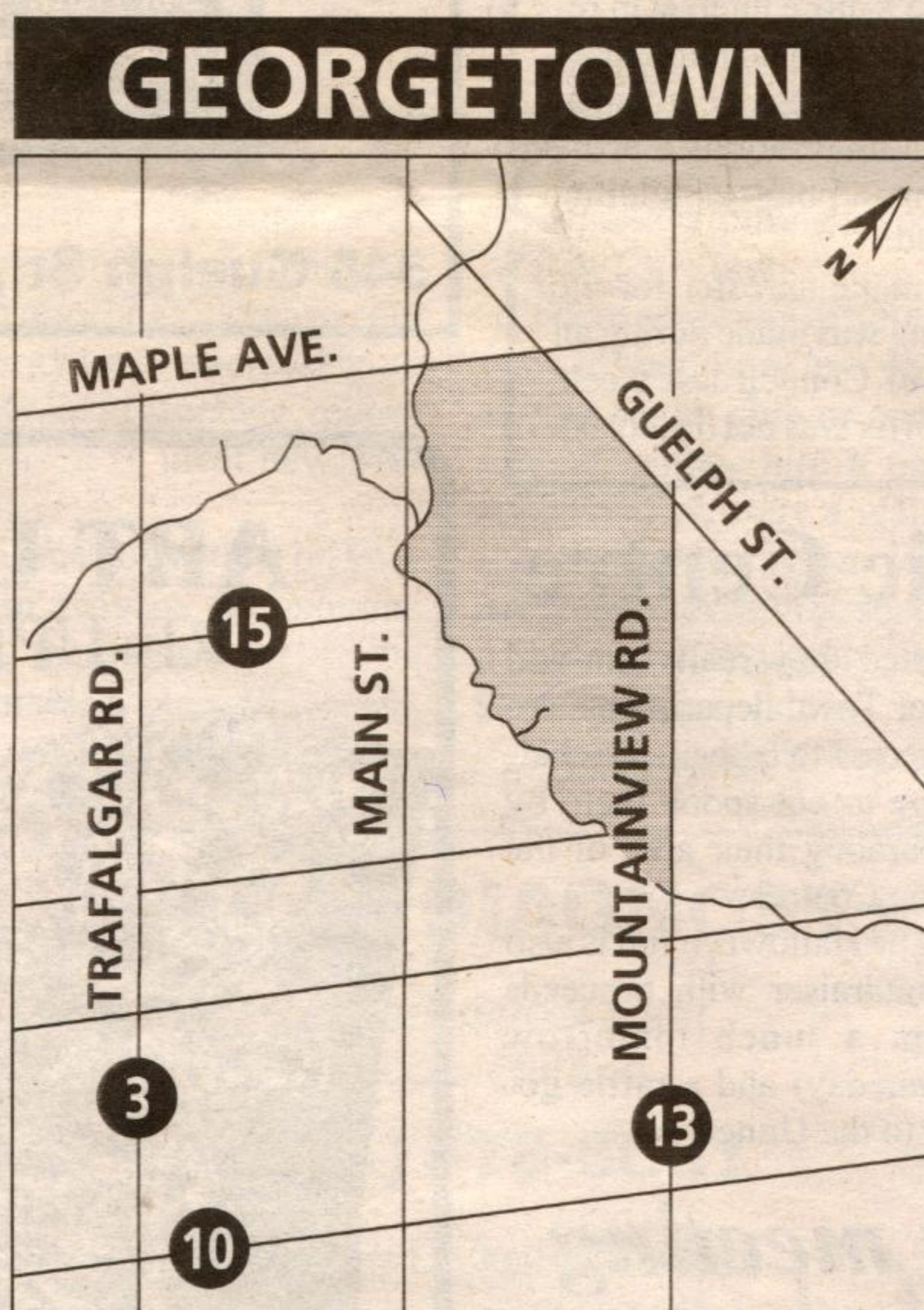
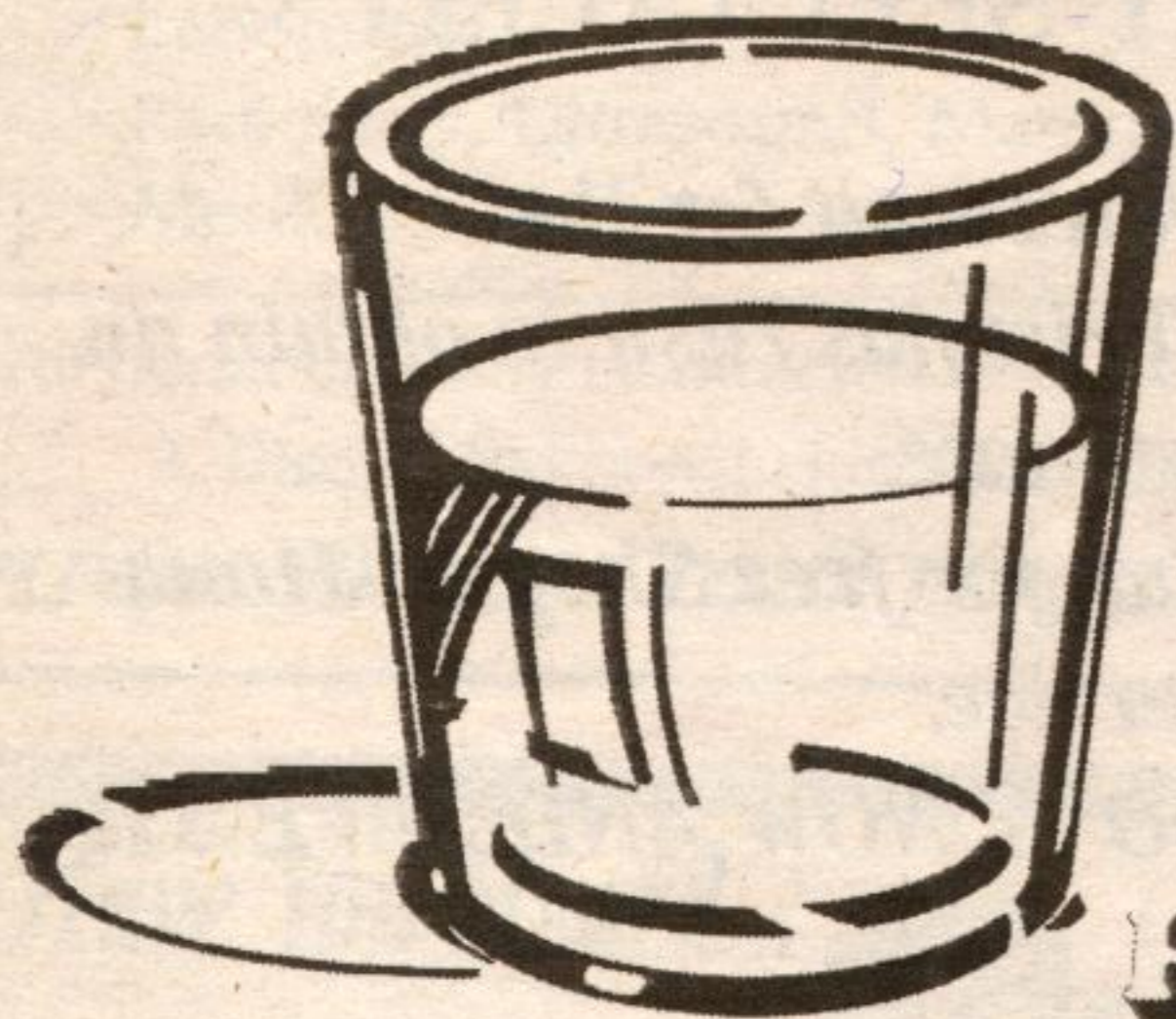
Constables from Halton Regional Police conducted Operation Impact targeting impaired drivers and seat belt violators, from Oct. 5 to 18.

Police stopped 4,346 vehicles, conducted 17

road side sobriety tests, issued five 12-hour suspensions, and one person was charged with impaired driving.

At that time, 28 people were charged with failing to wear seat belts.

WE'D LIKE TO MAKE THIS PERFECTLY CLEAR.



We are Halton Region Planning and Public Works and for the next few weeks we'll be cleaning out the water mains on the streets in the area shown on the map above.

We're working through the water system a few streets at a time. We'll drop off a bulletin to your home or business giving you a couple of days notice when we'll be working on your street.

During the cleaning, we'll be flushing out a lot of discoloured water. We don't want that ending up in your home. So, please remember:

- ✓ Please do not use your water or flush your toilet between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm on the day we're working on your street.
- ✓ Afterwards, flush out your own system by running your cold water until the water runs clear. Turn on the cold water in your basement and the tap in the highest part of your home.

Thanks for your help and sorry for the brief inconvenience. After this work is done, the drinking water will be clean for years to come. We think you'll like the way we've made things perfectly clear.

Questions? Call Betty Young at 878-8113, ext. 8145

Halton Region Planning and Public Works