

New aggregate rules draw region comments

By PAUL DOHSEY
Herald staff writer

New provincial legislation proposed to regulate the extraction of some 5 million tonnes of aggregate annually in Halton has raised serious concerns among regional officials.

The region's planning committee last week endorsed a series of comments prepared by staff in response to Bill 127 which promises to extensively revise Ontario's Pits and Quarries Control Act. Subject to council approval this week, the comments will be forwarded to the ministry of natural resources for consideration while the revisions are finalized.

"Halton is disappointed that the main thrust and argument put forward by both Halton and the Ontario Mineral Aggregate Working Party seeking the delegation of licensing authority to the regions and counties has not been embraced by the ministry in this new act," Bob White of the planning department commented in a report.

"In spite of this disappointment, Halton is pleased to see that many other recommendations of the Working Party have been included, particularly those dealing with rehabilitation of existing and abandoned pits and quarries, and compensation to regions, counties and municipalities."

VERY DEPENDENT

Among the 13 comments to be forwarded to Queen's Park is the note that the Niagara Escarpment Commission will soon be releasing its draft plan, which Mr. White said will be "very dependent" on the new Aggregate Act and vice versa. Copies of the proposed legislation should be forwarded to the Commission, he suggested.

Mr. White said the region is "pleased" to see the ministry taking its first step towards managing the aggregate industry, whereas its previous legislation simply sought to regulate operations. The region should be given an opportunity to review its plans for resource management before they are implemented, he said.

Mr. White's report takes issue with the ministry's plans to maintain complete control

over the administration of the new Act.

"This flies in the face of the Working Party report that regions and counties be delegated licence approving powers in much the same manner they have plans of subdivision," he said.

Licensing approvals should rest with the region, Mr. White contended, with the ministry in a position to exercise final authority over regional decisions.

"The 45 day objection limit (during which objecting parties must file formal appeals to licensing decisions or mining operations) should be increased to at least 60 days to enable municipalities to study and respond to the public as well as the industry concerns," he commented in regard to another section of the Act.

LICENCE FEE

The new legislation proposes a six cents per tonne (one metric tonne equals 1,000 kilograms) licence fee, to be paid by the licensee. Based on a total production output of 4,935,279 tonnes extracted from Halton pits last year, Mr. White calculated, the proposed fee would generate about \$296,000.

The portion of that amount allocated to Halton would not cover the region's related expenditures on road maintenance, planning, policing and other services, however, according to the new Act's proposed distribution policy, he pointed out.

While the Mineral Aggregate Working Party recommended that 50 per cent of the revenue should go to the municipality, 20 per cent to the region, 20 per cent to the province and 10 per cent toward the rehabilitation of abandoned sites, Mr. White explained, the new Act would see 67 per cent of the licence fees allocated to the municipality, 17 per cent to the province and eight per cent to the region and eight per cent to rehabilitation.

"Since many of the regions and counties are incurring costs due to the extractive industry," he said, "an eight per cent share of annual licence fees generated in unrealistic." A share at least equal to that of the province is needed by regions and counties if such

services are to be provided without additional burden being placed upon the taxpayer."

Mr. White submitted a breakdown of aggregate loads extracted in Halton's four area municipalities during 1978, aligning them with the revenue each would generate according to the new Act. Milton would rank the highest at \$91,793, since nearly 2.5 million tonnes of aggregate was mined there last year.

Burlington's 1.5 million tonnes would bring nearly \$61,000 to the city, while Halton Hills would be allocated about \$37,790 for its 943,454 tonnes. The proposed distribution formula would grant the region itself only \$24,676, while the province would receive \$49,353 and another \$25,000 would go toward rehabilitation.

NOT CLEAR

"The region is pleased with the establishment of a fund to rehabilitate abandoned pits and quarries," Mr. White commented. "But how this money is to be apportioned is not quite clear. For instance, will monies collected in the region

stay in the region until all pits here are rehabilitated, or will these monies be used elsewhere in the province?"

Mr. White's report also questioned the absence of an "appeal mechanism" in the new legislation which would enable the applicant, municipality or the public to challenge the ministry's final decision to approve or deny a licence application. The ministry still makes the final decision, he noted, even though the Ontario Municipal Board can consider applications before referring them to the ministry.

The new Act also broadens the authority of the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council, allocating management and administrative powers which Mr. White said "may be of regional concern where regulations are passed establishing regional production targets or areas for new pits and quarries."

"Halton and its area municipalities are concerned that regional and local interests could be undermined by ministerial regulation," he said.



BRITISH CLUB CAR RALLY

Joan Hayes passes out directions and collects information from Bruce Gougeon as he and his navigator prepare to leave the Esquering Hall for the start of the British Club's car rally Sunday

afternoon. A dozen cars travelled the 28 mile route ending up at Cedarvale for a barbeque.

Board offers tribute to late Gary Dawkins

The Halton board of education paid tribute Thursday evening to Gary Dawkins, principal of McKenzie-Smith Middle School, who died suddenly.

Tom Gibson, principal of Joseph Gibbons Public School, was a friend of Mr. Dawkins, and spoke about his work as an educator and his value as a friend.

"It is with a great deal of sorrow, but also with a great deal of pride that I appear here to talk about Gary," he said. Mr. Dawkins attended Robert Little Public School and Aton High School, and from there attended Lakeshore Teacher's College, Mr. Gibson said. His first teaching position was at Speyside Public School,

in 1960, and three years later at the age of 24, he was appointed principal of the school. He held the position for ten years. He was principal at M.Z. Bennett Public School, and was appointed principal of McKenzie-Smith Middle School in 1976.

DEEPLY SORRY

Mr. Gibson said Mr. Dawkins had been involved in education in Halton for 19 years, "and his associates are deeply sorry at his loss."

Mr. Gibson said he had known Mr. Dawkins for eleven years, and they had been close friends.

"Whenever I felt down, Gary was able to lighten the load and he gave support whenever he could," Mr. Gibson said. "I

never left Gary feeling down."

Mr. Dawkins also led an active personal life, and was involved in many church and community organizations, Mr. Gibson said. He was a member of Knox Presbyterian Church from 1957, and served twice on the church's board of management. He was a member of the Rotary Club for many years, and had a perfect record of attendance at the club's weekly meetings. He was elected president of the club twice.

ACTIVE MASON

Mr. Dawkins was also active in the Masons and the Legion. He was recently elected to the board of Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. He

was politically active in the Progressive Conservative Party for a number of years and ran as the provincial Conservative candidate in the 1975 election in Halton.

Board vice-chairman Bill Lawson said that Mr. Dawkins' greatest concern was always for the students. Whenever a new program or some kind of change was contemplated, Mr. Dawkins always asked "But what will it do for the students?" Mr. Lawson said.

"Now that Gary is no longer with us, it's up to us to ask, 'What will we do for the students?'" he said.

The board observed a minute of silence in tribute to Mr. Dawkins.

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