



Members of the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Group were so impressed with the fire department's demonstration of the new rescue equipment they want to buy that they decided to make a donation. Presenting Firefighter Don Maveal, chairman of the fund-raising committee, with a cheque for \$1,000 is Daryl Giberson, president of the group. Gerard Wilcox and firefighter Larry Brassard were also on hand for the presentation.

(Herald photo)

Donations requested for new equipment

The Georgetown Volunteer Firefighters' Association is asking for donations towards the cost of a new piece of rescue equipment which it hopes to donate to the town.

The new machine, known as the Jaws of Life, will be used to free victims trapped in automobile accidents. It is operated by a two-cycle engine which provides 18,000 pounds of pressure through the hoses

to the jaws.

The association says the fire department already has adequate rescue equipment, but the Jaws of Life are described as the "Cadillac" of rescue equipment, and could substantially reduce the time it takes to free a trapped victim.

The Jaws of Life, manufactured by Hurst, cost \$10,000. The firefighters' association has already begun raising

funds with the donkey baseball game in Glen Williams. So far, \$1,500 has been raised towards the cost of the equipment.

Other fund-raising events are being planned, but the association is also accepting donations from the public. Donations can be made in the name of the Georgetown Volunteer Firefighters' Fund-raisers at the Canada Trust branch on Main Street

Policy paper nothing new

Continued from page A1.

or on adjacent lands.

Although a section at the beginning of the paper says it is "not intended to supersede or take priority over other provincial planning policies" paragraphs at the end of the paper tend to contradict this.

"Local municipalities, regional municipalities and counties shall ensure that all official plans, bylaws and planning programs undertaken by their respective council or delegated authority

are in compliance with this policy statement," the paper says.

Also it states that "approved official plans and zoning bylaws shall be amended to comply with this policy statement at such time as they come up for review (within five years)."

Ms. Yundt says the paper is "nothing new" and represents merely a "fleshing out" of a 10 point government position signed into policy by the minister last September.

The policy would cover wayside pits, gravel pits and quarries. A wayside pit is a temporary pit, established by an MNR permit rather than a licence. It may contain sand or gravel and its materials may be used for municipal or public work only.

By that point, Esqueping Township had enacted a holding bylaw to put a freeze on strip development and nothing was changing until the township had an official plan. The only exception to the bylaw was to establish prior use.

When the company tried to have the property re-zoned extractive in the early 1970s, it failed to prove prior use as a quarry. Area residents held numerous meetings to fight the

Chairman denies suspicion

NEC not tool of gravel groups

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Special

The Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) was set up to protect the escarpment, not aggregate resources, says the commission's chairman.

Ivor McMullen denied Sunday the contention of a Halton councillor that the NEC was originated to protect aggregate resources.

The commission was the government's response to people's demands for conservation on the escarpment as a result of problems caused by development and aggregate production, he said.

Statements in a recent provincial policy paper on planning for mineral aggregate resources leave several people, including Milton Councillor Johnson, questioning that

postion.

Mr. Johnson sees strong similarities between this paper and one put out by Ontario Hydro in 1974 which laid down the route to be followed by the 500kv Bruce to Milton transmission line. No one knew the paper existed so they kept fighting the corridor for five more years, wasting their money on what was already a lost cause.

Passage of this policy paper through provincial cabinet would negate any restrictions on aggregate producers in either the proposed Niagara Escarpment plan or the Halton region official plan. It would also supersede legislation in other areas around the province which have placed an outright ban on aggregate production, he says.

Remembering the elaborate charade the provincial government played in order to push the Bruce-to-Milton hydro corridor through to completion, Mr. Johnson now questions if the NEC is a similar charade.

He feels sure members sitting on the commission do so in good faith, but that wouldn't prevent them being used to advance a government scheme to help the aggregate industry while all the time pretending to listen to conservationists, he says.

"You know the old trick of making the most vocal opponent chairman of a meeting, and thereby denying him a voice," he says. "They could have been playing that game all along. They put good, dedicated conservationists on the commission, then outweighed

them with supporters of their viewpoint. The conservationists get their say but lose out in a democratic vote."

Mr. Johnson's viewpoint is shared by a member of the Halton aggregate industry who wishes to remain unnamed. The official believes the NEC was originally set up to protect the province's aggregate resources along the escarpment. But during the past six years, members lost their perspective during the planning stages from the industry as well as from development.

The NEC proposed plan recognizes every licensed pit in the planning area, he said. If the industry wants more than that then it will have to battle for it at the plan hearings as it is in fact doing. One of these areas is part of

a 600-acre property south of 15 Sideroad in Halton Hills. The Speyside site belongs to Standard Aggregates and its exclusion from extractive zoning is part of the reason behind two lawsuits aimed at quashing Halton's very new official plan.

Mr. McMullen said the Halton Official plan is more restrictive in controls it imposes on aggregate producers than the NEC plan. By NEC standards part of the Speyside site could be used for a quarry but the rest of it should never be touched.

Long-standing quarry issue at heart of region's lawsuit

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Special

Standard Industries' lawsuit against the Halton region official plan is just the latest skirmish in a long-standing battle to open a quarry on 600 acres of the Niagara Escarpment south of Speyside.

The Speyside area ratepayers formed in opposition to the proposed pit in the early 1970s and Pam Sheldon has continued to monitor the situation although the group is now dormant.

When Consolidated Sand and Gravel bought the property in 1962, the land was zoned rural or agricultural, Mrs. Sheldon says. At that time the company made no move to establish a quarry and it wasn't until the late 1960s that such action was begun.

By that point, Esqueping Township had enacted a holding bylaw to put a freeze on strip development and nothing was changing until the township had an official plan. The only exception to the bylaw was to establish prior use.

When the company tried to have the property re-zoned extractive in the early 1970s, it failed to prove prior use as a quarry. Area residents held numerous meetings to fight the

proposal and convinced council they didn't need another quarry in the area. Representatives of the group visit council after every election to remind new members that the situation exists and ask their continued support for the battle.

Around 1975, Consolidated Sand and Gravel merged with Standard Aggregates. Standard Aggregates is part of a subsidiary of Canada Cement (La Forge Ltd.) one of the largest cement manufacturers in Ontario, Mrs. Sheldon says.

The creation of the Niagara Escarpment Commission in 1971 posed a second stumbling block for the company. All zoning on the escarpment was suspended pending the completion of the escarpment plan. That plan is now under consideration and the aggregate producers, including Standard, are opposing it at hearings now in progress at Owen Sound.

While Standard has been unsuccessfully attempting to get Halton region and the NEC to re-zone their land they have also been negotiating with Halton region conservation authority for a land swap.

HRCA owns 50 acres adjacent to Standard's holdings which they want to mine, says authority general manager Murray Stevens. Standard has made several attempts to get HRCA to turn over title to the property so that Standard can mine it. In return Standard has promised not to go within 300 feet of the escarpment brow. They will also reclaim the site after the quarry is worked out and turn over both their own acreage and the HRCA parcel to the authority as recreation land.

HRCA won't deal with the issue until the NEC plan is completed, Mr. Stevens says. If the quarry goes ahead, Mrs. Sheldon says residents can expect a huge operation, probably complete with an asphalt plant. It will open a hole in the escarpment from Dufferin quarries on Five Sideroad right up to 15 Sideroad.

The company will probably go to any lengths at this point to get the zoning changed, she suspects, since restrictions are tightening, not loosening, as time passes.

Milton regional councillor

Bill Johnson sees a recent government policy paper on aggregate resources as a real threat to a municipality's right to determine its own future.

He views the announcement earlier this fall by the ministry of communication and transportation that Highway 25 was going to be widened as another betrayal.

"They aren't widening that for the cars," he says. "They're doing it for the gravel trucks that will use it when they open the pit on 15 Sideroad."

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