

Brick plant granted right to use land for quarry

By MURRAY OXBV
Herald Special

Saying they had no choice, members of the Niagara Escarpment Commission voted Thursday to allow Brampton Brick Ltd. to operate a quarry on land that had once been set aside for a park.

Commissioner Joan Little, of Halton Region, said, although it is "distasteful" to her, she felt the commission had to approve a development permit for the company to extract shale from the 99-hectare (245-acre) site between the villages of Cheltenham and Terra Cotta, about eight kilometers north of Brampton.

Their decision rested largely on the site's designation as an area set

aside for mineral resource extraction under the commission's plan, which was approved by the provincial cabinet in June 1985.

The commission, which must approve all land-use applications in the escarpment area, is an agency of the provincial government charged with protecting the escarpment's natural environment. It stretches 725 kilometers from Niagara Falls to the tip of the Bruce Peninsula and is known as the route of the Bruce Trail.

Cheltenham Brickworks used the site between Heritage and Mississauga roads at the Canadian National Railway tracks - for making bricks from 1912 to 1964, when it was bought by the former Township of Chinguacousy for a park. Under regional government, the area passed to the Town of Caledon, which sold it to the province in 1976 on the informal understanding it would be made a provincial park or part of a

conservation area.

However, the Ministry of Natural Resources later asked the commission to designate the area for mineral resource extraction and in 1979 selected Brampton Brick to use the site for brick and tile manufacturing.

The company changed its plans to manufacture bricks at the same site and is now building a plant in north Brampton on Highway 10.

Commissioner Lyn MacMillan said she felt "tremendous despair" in making the decision. While the commission works hard to prevent violations of the plan, she said she could not vote in favor of the permit. A gravel pit near her home town of Maple has ruined the environment in the area, she said.

"Morally, I cannot approve of this. Normally we work to protect the environment."

She said the Natural Resources Ministry's decision to develop the

area as a quarry when residents expected it to become a park was "despicable."

Coun. Little said she didn't like the designation but that it was really too late for the commission to change it now. She lamented the "misunderstandings" residents had about the fate of the site and said she was unhappy the province exempted the quarry from the usual environmental assessment process.

The area to be dug out will be more than a kilometer wide and about 30 meters deep.

Commissioners voted to allow the permit after only a few minutes of discussion. However, they had heard brief presentations from Brampton Brick's lawyer, a lawyer from the Halton County, a member of the People for the Preservation of Rural Living, and two members of the Township decided to make it a park.

He also said the escarpment commission and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority were ignoring their mandates.

The decision of the commission can be appealed to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

Brampton Brick has applied to the Ministry of Natural Resources for a licence to operate the quarry. The PPRL has already filed an objection with the ministry.

—Courtesy Brampton Times

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Trust a high school English teacher to catch the grammar errors in a resolution before town council.

That's exactly what Coun. Gerald Rennie did Monday night, before councillors approved a one and a half page resolution on drinking and driving from the Ontario Traffic Conference.

Coun. Rennie spotted at least 20 errors in the resolution and offered to fix them up.

"The intent is fine, but the grammar is terrible. I failed it," the councillor said.

Councillors approved the resolution with the understanding it would be polished up.

"The administrator- clerk just said those grammatical things don't make no never mind to him," Acting Mayor Norman Elliott said as councillors burst into laughter and Administrator-Clerk Joe Simon looked uncomfortable over his joke being made public.

Ventin contract

The town administration has been authorized to enter into an agreement between the town and C. A. Ventin Architect Ltd. for the completion of plans and specifications for the construction of a new administration building.

2 units gone

Berwick Hall at 139 Main St. S. in Georgetown won sewage capacity for two basement apartment units Monday night at council.

This leaves the town with a sewage capacity reserve for 20 units.

GDHS expansion

A Toronto firm was selected to do almost \$2 million in renovations at Georgetown District High School. Big H Construction won the job with their bid of \$1.85 million. The only other submission was \$2,045,000 by a Downsview firm, Plaza Buildall General Contracting Inc.

The architect of the project recommended the Toronto firm and the Halton Board of Education approved that recommendation Thursday night in Burlington.

Acton Y fitness

The Acton YMCA is meeting your fitness needs by offering morning and a new evening fitness class this Spring. Morning classes are twice per week from 9 a.m. with weekly "weigh-ins" for those trying to shed those extra pounds. Evening fitness classes begin the week of March 30 every Tuesday and Thursday from 8 - 9 p.m. Phone 853-1070.

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Citizen groups meet to step up the fight

By MURRAY OXBV
Herald Special

Residents of Cheltenham and Terra Cotta say they're tired of being polite - they plan to be more militant in their fight against a plan by Brampton Brick Ltd. to mine a quarry between the two villages.

About 150 residents jammed the small community centre in Terra Cotta Thursday night for a meeting organized by the People for the Preservation of Rural Living, which has battled the brick maker since 1981.

Many groaned when told of their latest setback earlier in the day, when the Niagara Escarpment Commission approved a permit for the company to operate the site. PPRL representatives Alan Hunter and George Hankin spoke to the commissioners but failed to sway them.

The commission staff, as well as Caledon Town Council, the Region of Peel and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority are among the

agencies supporting the proposal under certain conditions.

PPRL leaders described their frustration. Gwen Connolly said they should consider suing the government "because we are not being represented fairly at any level of government."

She said they have pointed out that alternate sources of shale other than in the escarpment area are available.

"You try to fight them and you try to ask questions, and you just get pushed aside," Ms. Connolly said.

One person in the audience asked if they had been going "by the book," and said: "Is there anyway we can be more militant about it?"

Ms. Connolly asked the residents to write letters to Premier David Peterson to complain about the pit and the decision by the Escarpment Commission.

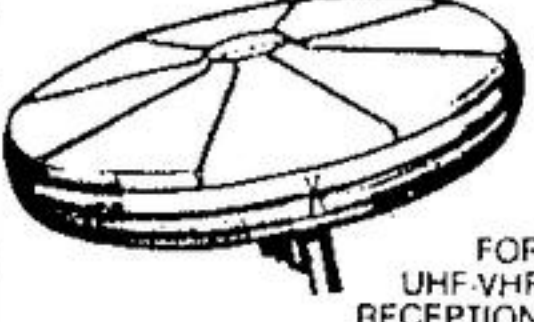
She also asked members for donations, and their participation in hearings next week.

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The permit has 36 conditions attached to it, including the preservation of the Cheltenham Brickworks buildings, the planting of extensive tree buffers, a prohibition on using a forested area at the north of the site or an area surrounding two streams on the west end of the site.

The permit also awaits a site-plan agreement with the Town of Caledon and agreements between Caledon, Peel Region and the province on who will pay for road improvements and a water supply system to the site.

In his presentation, Brampton Brick lawyer Jim Beatty said the company accepts the conditions set

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