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"Get out of town" aggregate producer told



The Halton Hills School of Dancing clung to their miniature Canadian flags for a ride on this old fire engine in Glen Williams during the Canada Day celebrations on Saturday. The celebrations in Glen

Williams and Ballinafad allowed residents on both sides of Halton Hills to share in the nationwide festivities.

(Herald photo by Brian MacLeod)

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

An aggregate producer was told to "get the hell out of town" by one local man during a heated discussion on a proposed quarry during a public meeting in Acton last week.

Taro Aggregates Inc. President Al Isaac wants to open a 424-acre quarry immediately south of the proposed expansion of the United Aggregates quarry between Highway 25 and the Fourth Line near Limehouse. The quarry would have an entrance off Highway 25.

But an audience of about 100 people, including many members of the citizens group POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) - the group fighting the proposed Acton landfill site - alternately shouted and laughed at the proposal for the quarry during the meeting held at the Music Hall on Wallace Street.

At one point the debate heated up leading one man to shout, "I don't want you in this town. I don't want you as a neighbor. Get the hell out of town. That's what we're saying. Have you got the message now?"

Other audience members said Taro Aggregates would be "violating" the Niagara Escarpment and they demanded a guarantee "in blood" that the firm would never be associated with Reclamation Systems Inc., the firm proposing the Acton landfill site.

Mr. Isaac said he would give such a guarantee in writing.

Taro examined six possible locations for a quarry but the other five sites don't yield such a high quality of rock as the Acton site, said Mr. Isaac. "This happens to be where the best rock is. If you want gold you go to Kirkland Lake. If you want oil you go to Alberta."

And the site is located near the Niagara corridor, where most of the future development is expected, said Mr. Isaac.

One half of the land proposed for the quarry lies in the protected area of the Niagara Escarpment, he said.

But John McCauley, an environmental planner with the consulting firm of Gartner Lee hired by Taro, said there are ways of altering the Niagara Escarpment Plan to allow the quarry.

Mr. Isaac said Taro wants to mine the quarry in parcels, allowing for "progressive rehabilitation." While the parcels are being mined, the town could use the remaining land for recreational facilities such as tennis courts or a baseball diamond, said Mr. Isaac.

"How many people have been through (property bordering) the Third Line? We want to open it up to the people," said Mr. Isaac.

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New parking fines anger business owners

By DONNA KELL
Herald Staff

When Paul McCartney of the Beatles got a parking ticket, he was able to write a song about the meter maid Rita, but business people and shoppers on Georgetown's Main Street are finding nothing worth singing about when it comes to the new parking fines.

Parking fines in Halton Hills underwent a system change June 1, that brought the immediate

parking meter fine up from \$3 to \$8.

"It's not really an increase," said the town's bylaw enforcement officer Bob Ustrzycki. "In actual fact, the fines have been reduced."

The new parking fine system under the ministry of the provincial government does away with the pre-fine warning and issues a ticket that becomes a summons after 15 days if it isn't paid.

"To leave (the fine) at \$3 is

ludicrous under the new system," said Mr. Ustrzycki.

What was formerly a \$3 fine for parking meter violations, had to be paid within three days or it would increase.

About 40 per cent of the 10,000 Halton Hills drivers receiving tickets last year did not pay within three days, said Mr. Ustrzycki. The ticket prices increased to \$8 after three days and then to \$13 if they remained unpaid after 45

days.

But those working and shopping downtown see only the apparent increase of \$5, or over 150 per cent in their parking fines. They say it could be hurting shopping in downtown Georgetown.

"I've had people say the reason I don't hop in downtown Georgetown is because they have meters," said Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce and

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