

Municipal board addresses environmental concerns

A decision of the Ontario Municipal Board has ensured that environmental concerns will now be more rigorously considered before gravel operations throughout the province are permitted to proceed.

The precedent-setting decision forces aggregate developers to thoroughly investigate potential environmental damage, should a host municipality order such an investigation.

It came about as a result of a 15-month hearing in Puslinch Township, near Guelph, where four gravel extraction proposals

were stalled by council after concerns were aired about potential environmental damage to local provincially significant wetlands and fisheries resources.

An invaluable cold water trout stream and an adjacent Class One wetland were threatened by the developments.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) argued at the hearings that the province consistently places the values of Ontario's natural environment a distant second to the needs of the aggregate industry, said Chris Horwarth, of the OFAH.

But the Puslinch OMB decision will force developers to consider the full ramifications of projects on local environments before expecting approval from a municipality, he said.

"The decision sets one precedent because aggregate developers across Ontario will have to answer to tougher environmental questioning as they try to sell their proposals to municipalities," Horwarth said. "It sets another because the province, as a whole, will have to see this as a trend: environmental issues are increasingly becoming the first and primary

concern regarding land use issues."

The board complemented the OFAH for its participation at the hearings. In its decision, the board said the OFAH "clarified and advanced" issues relating to the importance of the natural environment.

Several battles have raged in recent years across Puslinch Township, where a rich vein of gravel coveted by the aggregate industry has caused a rift with local residents and farmers.

Horwarth said that although the OFAH is still expecting two more

decisions from the lengthy hearings - one relating to a University of Guelph gravel proposal - it's satisfied that the fight was worthwhile.

"I think the OFAH, and anyone concerned about Ontario's natural environment has gained ground," he said. "The OMB has demonstrated a strong environmental stand that the aggregate industry will have to respect in the future. Hopefully, significant amounts of fragile habitat will be saved as a result."

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Government to build armoury in Georgetown

By **BEN DUMMETT**
 the Herald

C Company, The Lorne Scots militia, based in Georgetown at the armoury in the Fairgrounds, the 676 Royal Canadian Army Cadet corps, who also use the Georgetown Armoury and the construction industry in Halton Hills are all expected to benefit from the planned construction of a new armoury on Sinclair Avenue in Georgetown.

The federal government announced Wednesday it has purchased 1.42 hectares of land beside Nelson's field for \$1.106 million to build the new armoury.

The government will call for bids from contractors to build the new armoury in early 1992 with completion set for 1994, said the Minister of State, John McDermid. Mr. McDermid, MP for the riding of Brampton, was speaking on behalf of Bill McNight, the Minister of Defence.

No one with C Company could be reached before press time to comment on the new building. C Company is currently on training exercises in Petawawa.

The government bought the property from the Georgetown construction company McNally Construction. The firm's vice-president, David McNally and, the sale had been in the works for about six months, but wouldn't comment further.

Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner said Wednesday he's hopeful that local contractors will get "first dibs" on the contract. "Hopefully, we'll get some local investment out of this," he added.

Calling the project a "big sucker", in terms of size, he said the complex is a multi-million dollar project.

Mr. Turner also anticipates that the building, once completed, will provide local businesses, the likes of maintenance and landscaping

companies, financial benefits.

The Core Commander of the 676 Army Cadets, Alex Roth, said the new building will provide the necessary increase in floor space to teach the cadets marksmanship and safety. He called the current armoury in Georgetown "small and cramped," for the cadets themselves. As well, he only has a small room as an administrative office.

The new building will allow for more classroom space so that a variety of activities can go on at the same time, he said. The new building will also mean the cadets will be able to meet twice a week instead of once as they do now.

The existing armoury is recognized as a heritage building.

It was constructed between 1858 and 1860 as a centre for militia recruiting and training, said Mr. McDermid. But it no longer meets the operational, training and overall area requirements of C Company, he explained.

Mr. Turner said the government will probably sell the current armoury building once the new building is complete.

The new armoury is one of several armouries across the country, the defense department is building to up-date its facilities, said the department's Lieutenant Commander Ian Thompson.

The new armoury will be comprised of administration and supply areas, lecture rooms, a drill

hall, a four-bay garage, an indoor firing range, showers, lockers, offices, a compound for eight military vehicles and a 50-space parking lot.

Lt. Cdr. Thompson said in choosing the Sinclair Avenue location the Department of Defense wanted to build the armoury in an industrial area.

Calling the armoury an industrial type building, he explained that the chosen location will reduce any chance of conflict arising between the defense department and local residents.

When contacted, Arvin Prasad of the town's Planning Department said the department was unaware of the project.

Volkswagens vandalized

Five Volkswagen vehicles in Georgetown were vandalized by culprits who cut small holes above car door locks, stealing and damaging close to \$1,300 worth of car radios and personal property.

All thefts were reported to have occurred late July 9 or in the early morning hours of July 10.

Police say a 1986 blue Volkswagen Golf at 3 Irwin Crf., was broken into between July 9 at 4 p.m. and July 10 at 5 a.m. after a small hole was made in the top of the driver's door handle. Suspects apparently tried to remove the car radio but failed, reports indicated. However, a gym bag containing a wallet and identification were stolen.

A \$350 car radio was stolen from a grey 1985 Volkswagen Jetta at 11 Irwin Crf., between July 7 at 5 p.m. and July 10 at 5 p.m., after suspects found the car unlocked. No damages or other contents were reported missing to police.

Between 2:30 and 5:00 a.m. July

10 \$700 in car stereo equipment was stolen from a 1979 green Volkswagen Rabbit at 135 Mountainview Rd. South home after a hole was cut just above the driver's door handle. Police say the thieves unlocked the vehicle and removed an Alpine stereo and speaker cabinets.

After suspects made a hole above the passenger door of a 1986 gold Volkswagen Golf at 26 Sargent Rd., they unlocked the car and removed \$160 worth of tapes and personal items. The theft was reported to have occurred between 1 and 5:45 a.m. on July 10. Eighteen cuntry and western tapes, a pair of pink sunglasses and a window ornament were reported stolen to police.

A 1990 Volkswagen Jetta, parked in front of a 218 Delrex home between 1 and 7 a.m. on July 10, was scratched around the car's door locks and unlocked, however, no contents were reported stolen.

Police believe the same culprits are responsible for the thefts.



Summer camp hi-jinks

Several youngsters got piggyback rides at the playground of Sacre Coeur School on Wednesday afternoon from Georgetown summer camp leaders. They were outside enjoying the sun and getting some

exercise before setting up their swimming pool. From left are camp leader Joy Turton with Kraig Anderson, Ryan Brain with Jason Richardson and Karen Riddall with Jessica Lillie. (Herald Photo)

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