

Town files objection to quarry expansion

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

The Town of Halton Hills is filing an objection to Dufferin Aggregates' licence application for the proposed Acton quarry expansion.

Halton Hills Council voted Tuesday to direct staff to notify the Ministry of Natural Resources and Dufferin Aggregates of the Town's objection.

The reasons given for the objection are that the application is considered premature because the work on the merits and impact of the quarry by the Joint Agency Review Team (JART) is still ongoing, the proposed land use isn't a permitted use in the Town's Official Plan, and the review of the submitted Official Plan and zoning bylaw amendment applications have not been completed by the Town or relevant commenting agencies, or considered by council.

"This decision to object is a huge one at this stage of the game," said Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette. "There are too many outstanding concerns."

He said a staff report recommending Regional Council object to Dufferin's application was approved by Halton Region's Planning and Public Works Committee Wednesday. It is expected to be before council next week.

"An objection will be filed by staff on behalf of Regional Council on the basis that it's premature to deal with Aggregate Resources Act matter while technical information and planning matters remain

outstanding," it was stated in the Region report.

Bonnette said he understands Conservation Halton has also recently filed an objection and the Region report said discussions with NEC staff indicate they intend to recommend to the commission that an objection to the application also be filed.

"This is not good news for Dufferin at this stage in the game. Maybe they were just moving too quickly on their application," said Bonnette.

Andrea Bourrie, Director, Planning and Regulatory Affairs of Holcim Canada, of which Dufferin is a division, said Dufferin expected the objections, and are "another step in the process."

"It allows us to proactively engage with the agencies to come up with a comprehensive list of issues, and work through trying to address those issues over the next year or so," said Bourrie.

She said, "it's not a refusal of the application, it is their comments" under the 45-day notification and consultation period.

The proposed Acton quarry extension is to be situated to the north and south of the Acton quarry on lands owned by the company.

The extension area is approximately 300 hectares, and the extraction would occur on about 100 hectares.

A public information session on the application is set for Tuesday (June 1) from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Acton District High School.



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