

# Norval group, councillors applaud quarry ruling

By **LISA TALLYN**  
Staff Writer

Rural Halton Hills politicians and a Norval citizens' group are 'thrilled' a Caledon-based citizens' group last week won its 13-year battle against a massive open-pit stone quarry.

The Ontario Municipal Board agreed that the risks associated with the quarry would have a "catastrophic impact" on the local environment.

The decision means the end of the road for the Rockfort Quarry proposed by Caledon-based James Dick Construction at the corner of Winston Churchill Blvd. and Old Baseline Rd. The site is on the Paris Moraine, at the juncture where it meets the protected Niagara Escarpment.

The residents claimed that, at the height of production, there would be as many as 1,000 trucks a day carrying rock out of the quarry. But the true figure remains in dispute. The application sought permission to extract up to 2.5 million tonnes of rock a year.

Halton Hills Ward 2 Councillor Bryan Lewis said he is "pleased with the result which I would consider to be a fitting result."

Fellow Ward 2 Councillor Joan Robson, a Credit Valley Conservation board member, is also happy with the outcome.

*'I'm delighted that the board decision has come down in favour of the environment.'*

—Halton Hills councillor Joan Robson



"I'm delighted that the board decision has come down in favour of the environment," said Robson. "The CVC has fought vigorously for this decision."

"It's awesome; it's a wonderful win for the environment," said Lillie Ann Morris of the Coalition of Concerned Citizens as word came down last Monday that the board, which held hearings between September and May, had come down on the side of citizens.

"We were extremely concerned about the water," Morris said. "We are all on wells in the area."

Janet Kuzinar, President of the Norval Pit Stop Community Organization, said the Norval community applauds the OMB decision.

"The small hamlet of Norval... is facing similar issues as Caledon with respect to a proposed shale quarry in their quaint village. The community was thrilled to hear of the recent OMB decision to crush plans for a massive open pit stone quarry in Caledon."

She said the Norval community is ob-

jecting to a proposal by Brampton Brick to excavate aggregate from a proposed quarry located on Winston Churchill Blvd., just north of Hwy. 7 in Brampton. They have similar concerns about the Brampton Brick quarry as the Caledon community did.

Andrea Bourrie of Dufferin Aggregates said the Rockfort decision "underscores the value of extensions to existing quarries, the need for collaboration with the community and having a long-term environmental stewardship vision."

"The nature of our business demands that all technical aspects of the proposal are addressed and innovative solutions are secured," said Bourrie. Dufferin has filed plans to extend its Acton Quarry by approximately 300 hectares.

She said demonstrating innovative approaches that bring ecology, economy and quality of life together through community collaboration is extremely important to Dufferin.

"We aim to leave as strong a legacy in Acton as we did for our Milton Quarry

expansion several years ago," said Bourrie.

She said the foundation of the Dufferin Acton Quarry extension has always been the principle of collaboration and overall ecological and community benefit.

The OMB noted in the Caledon ruling that the quarry would bring a profound change in the character of the area.

"A failure in the mitigation measures proposed for the quarry ... would have a catastrophic impact on the natural environment or the natural features and functions of the area," the decision said. "Such an impact cannot be countenanced by the Board. In addition, the fundamental change to the character of the area attendant upon the proposed quarry would not be acceptable."

The quarry company had argued the site was designated for resource extraction and was environmentally attractive because its location—closer than other pits in Dufferin County and northwest of Caledon—would cut the amount of truck travel needed to deliver the raw materials that help build homes, bridges and highways across the GTA.

Residents said hydrogeological modelling they paid for suggested there were too many unknowns about the quarry's effect on groundwater—putting local water sources that feed the Credit River at risk.

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