

Norval residents fear quarry would impact water system

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"The final decision really rests with the OMB," Smith told residents.

But whatever city staff determine and city councillors decide will play a role in the OMB hearing.

So residents, who have formed the group Norval Pit Stop Community Organization to oppose the quarry, are making sure their concerns are known, and water wasn't the only one expressed by those who spoke at Monday's meeting.

Winston Churchill is a hilly road and the addition of trucks would increase the danger to other road users, including the many school buses that travel the route daily, residents said.

One life-long Norval resident said many people moved to the area to have a "quiet house in the country", but those dreams are "decimated" with the quarry proposal.

Dust, noise, truck traffic, and the impact on the site's wetlands and Credit River tributaries were all concerns raised by residents.

There was a brief period of booing when Bramptonian Ted Harlson, who ran for the Freedom Party in the recent provincial election and who does not live in the area where the quarry is being proposed, said it would be "the best thing for us."

"Everything about the Norval quarry is good," he told the group. "We need all kinds of economic activity... it's especially good for short and long-term employment..."

He called it a visionary enterprise and said the government should "step aside" and let it happen.

But most did not agree.

"Water is the main issue here," one woman said. "What you're going to do is destroy everything to make this happen... It's a bad idea. Something else has to be worked out."

There was also a brief presentation by Brampton Brick agent Bob Long of Long Environmental.

He said the company has been a "significant company for more than 100 years" providing a livelihood for thousands of local families and paying municipal taxes that are now close to \$1 million.

Long said the company sees no issue that would prevent the development of the quarry.

He told residents half the property

would be protected as "open space and buffer" and there would be no blasting. Instead, techniques similar to those used to build a subdivision would be used to extract the shale. There would be 30 truck loads per day, three loads per hour, carried by six trucks working a 10-hour day, he said.

They would truck the shale north on Winston Churchill Boulevard to Mayfield Road, east to Hwy. 10 and then south on Hwy. 10 to the brick plant.

Winston Churchill Boulevard would have to be reconstructed before the quarry could begin operations, which would mean it would be at least another two years.

Long said the company has had discussions with some individual residents in the area about the possibility of a piped

water system, a guarantee of water supply and a property value protection plan.

Brampton Councillor Paul Palle-schi said Brampton Brick has sent a letter to residents in the area, but "the neighbours I've talked to haven't had any contact" with the company.

"They (Brampton Brick) haven't offered any solutions that I know of," Palle-schi said. Palle-schi and fellow Councillor John Hutton were at the meeting. Hutton has been vocal about his opposition to the project, and Palle-schi said Hutton's assertion that the plan must be stopped has been right on.

"We all know this is not the right place for this," Palle-schi said.

Even Hutton's daughter gave an emotional speech, talking about the dangers of the truck traffic and the damage to the land and water.

"There are so many things wrong with this, it's hard to begin," she said. "This is not where it should be."

Two Halton Hills councillors—Bryan Lewis and Joan Robson—also spoke at the meeting, showing their support for the residents.

"I have never seen a report with so many flaws in it— ever," Lewis said of the Brampton Brick proposal. "They didn't do a very good job."

"We were delighted to see the stand that Brampton took and we are supportive of them and of all of you," Robson told the group.

The peer review reports and other information are available on the city's website at www.brampton.ca.

'I have never seen a report with so many flaws in it— ever.'

—Ward 2 Councillor Bryan Lewis



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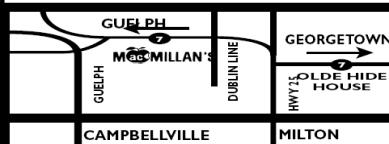
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