

Salamanders' fate, traffic concern residents

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surface water in perpetuity

- The ability of AMP to protect natural features and species dependent on this water

- Impacts resulting from the habitat removal on species at risk such as the Jefferson salamander, barn swallow and Eastern Meadowlark and on significant wetlands/woodlands.

"JART is going to be looking for Dufferin to respond how they are going to be addressing these issues," said Lisa Grbrinicek, NEC Senior Strategic Advisor, as she updated the residents on the salamander's endangered habitat.

Dufferin consultant Brian Zeman, of MHBC planning, told the audience the extraction plan was reduced in size "in an effort to provide further commitment to protecting important environmental features that have been identified through this process as well as providing additional setbacks to residents in the community."

He said there has been a 32 per cent reduction in the size of the proposed extraction area. These changes were done to exclude the newly-mapped provincial significant wetlands and 12 hectares of woodland.

But POWER representative Leslie Adams is not impressed, saying that POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) opposes any quarrying of the Niagara Escarpment. She cites potential loss of endangered species, water impacts, and the blight on the Escarpment named by the United Nations as a world biosphere.

In response to residents' concerns about well water impacts, Zeman said, "There aren't any impacts predicted for the adjacent wells, but in the event an investigation finds the quarry did affect the well or the investigation could not rule out the quarry, Dufferin Aggregates will restore the water supply to the affected resident."

As well, Dufferin consultant Richard Murphy, of Conestoga-Rovers & Associ-

ates, explained an early warning system of monitoring wells is being set up around the perimeter of the proposed expansion that would detect any impacts.

Mott-Allen said while JART considers the transportation study complete, it will now include the concerns of frustrated residents who voiced complaints about speeding or early morning trucks on Third Line, Fourth Line and 17 Sideroad.

While Dufferin has no control over the independent drivers, Bourrie said the company does have training and code of conduct for the drivers. She encourages residents to provide Dufferin with identification of offending trucks, and they will discipline the drivers.

Mott-Allen said JART does not anticipate an increase in truck traffic because production would stay at the current levels—a limit of four million tonnes per year.

Zeman added these are the last expansion phases planned at the Acton quarry, with the Dufferin-owned lands being turned over to public ownership after quarrying is complete.

Without the expansion, quarrying, which employs about 60 people, would be complete in about three to four years. With approval, it would extend the life of the quarry by 18-24 years and would extract about 71 million tonnes of dolostone.

In order to get approval for the expansion, Dufferin requires amendments to its NEC development permit, its Aggregate Resources Act licence, to the Halton Hills Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw, to Halton Region Official Plan and to the Endangered Species Act. Once approval is given, it must then apply for a provincial permit to take water, environmental compliance, and conservation authority permits.

The JART report is available on the Town's website at www.haltonhills.ca.

Mott-Allen invites residents' comments. Email her at nancy.mott-allen@ontario.ca. Dufferin Aggregates also provides an information website, www.dufferinactonquarry.com or call 1-866-635-6111.



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