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The Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press

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Groundwater impact deemed 'acceptable'

Halsall 'appalled' by Ministry memo on quarry landfill

By PAUL DORSEY

The Acton Quarry would be "completely unacceptable" for landfilling were it not for Reclamation Systems Inc.'s elaborate engineering scheme, Provincial officials have decided.

But RSI has covered the bases, according to a Ministry of Environment memorandum released Tuesday, and its president believes the company is heading for a home run.

Contacted Wednesday, Walter Graziani seemed quite pleased with the memorandum, which will become part of the "blue book" review soon to be placed before Environment Minister Ruth Grier.

"We've done a lot of work on this," Graziani commented. "I think (the memorandum reflects my belief) that our opponents' arguments are really unfounded. We have a lot of faith in this site."

"I'm appalled," POWER president Barbara Halsall said after reading the eleven-page, in-house memorandum. "It makes it look as though everything is wonderful, and nothing could be further from the truth."

Ministry staff identified a number of outstanding issues — citing "major concerns" about surface water — and listed 16 conditions RSI must meet, but concluded that "groundwater impacts will be acceptable" if the United Aggregates Ltd. quarry becomes a major garbage dump.

POWER's fundamental argument against the proposal is that RSI cannot guarantee that toxic leachate from the dump won't escape its containment system and leak through the limestone, ultimately contaminating the area's main underground water source.

"(The Ministry is) not concerned at all about groundwater," Halsall complained. "We've had a couple of hydrogeologists at the site who certainly had concerns."

But the Ministry has accepted RSI's contention that leachate can be safely contained by a "significantly improved" network of collection pipes, purge wells, trenches and a confining wall that's safe from quarry blasting.

As to the Niagara Escarpment Commission's fear that a geological "pop-up" caused by the weight of the quarry stone itself could rupture the leachate collection system,

the Ministry admits that experts disagree on the likelihood and says it doesn't know itself.

"Given the importance of the issue, it is recommended that the experts meet to resolve points of conflict," the memorandum states.

The Ministry says approval for the landfill is dependent on approval for a planned, on-site treatment plant, which RSI must obtain through a separate application. RSI is cautioned that "contaminant loadings are still of concern to the Ministry."

Because waste would be dumped at the southeast corner of the quarry, the memorandum says odor, litter and vermin will be limited, but "a certain level of 'nuisance' impacts can be expected."

Graziani said he found "nothing really objectionable" to any of the Ministry's conditions, including a requirement that waste haulers be kept off Milton's Sixth Line and that RSI must install noise barriers outside and central air conditioning inside a particular house on Regional Rd. 43 if its owner finds the truck noise unbearable.

The Ministry accepted RSI's con-

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Marriage counsellor, Dr. Oliver De Vreck (Steve Prevost) helps steady a weak-kneed Carrie Sachs (Shlona Watson) who has dropped by to tell the doctor of her husband's affair with his wife, in Georgetown Little Theatre's newest comedy,

"Lunch Hour" which opened with a benefit performance, Thursday night. Proceeds from Thursday night's performance will be going to the Drug Abuse Centre. The play continues next week.

TED BROWN Halton Hills Weekend

Residents petition for Hwy. 7 traffic lights

Fear for the safety of seniors and children on Main St. north in Georgetown has prompted residents to petition Town Council for traffic lights in the area.

Lena Emmerson of Ewing St. urged councillors Monday night to consider a pedestrian crossing or traffic signals at the intersection of Hwy. 7 and Ewing. She also presented a petition "with a few hundred signatures," supporting her request.

"We have worried parents, young mothers with small

children and seniors trying to cross a four-lane highway trying to go shopping," she said. "The biggest worry is the seniors... We have a lovely new store across the road, but the seniors are afraid to go there. One lady said she was terrified, and this isn't funny. The other day some man was trying to cross in a wheelchair, with no protection."

"I always thought it is our duty as adults to protect children and seniors. If all it takes is a light or a cross walk, then for goodness

sake let's have it."

Town Engineer Bob Austin warned councillors that traffic counts in the area may not be enough to meet provincial regulations regarding signals. He guessed that lights would cost anywhere between \$125,000 and \$150,000, while a cross walk would set the municipality back \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Councillors directed Austin to review the situation and report back to them as soon as possible.

Sunday Brunch

The Tradition Continues

A casual relaxing mid-day meal among family and friends is a delightful activity for many on Sunday.

The cosy, country setting offers a warm and inviting feeling for your gathering.

For your enjoyment our chef prepares new & seasonal breakfast specialties each Sunday.

Traditional favorites include our carving

station and the popular Create Your Own Omelette Station.

Plus - fresh made waffles, a selection of country breads, fresh fruits and berries, pastries from Dufflets. Fruit Juices, homemade desserts and other creations to please your palate.

The tradition continues Sundays, at Jack Tanner's Table.

Reservations Recommended 853-3440



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