



Guelph / Eramosa **COUNCIL CHIPS** By: Vivien Fleisher

Council opposes Hidden Quarry

At a special meeting of council on October 7 (held again at Rockmosa Community Center in anticipation of a large crowd) council unanimously opposed James Dick Construction's request for rezoning of a property on 6th line for the establishment of a class 2 quarry. This opposition is a position, rather than a decision, given that the application is scheduled to go before the OMB. Citing "serious concerns with the unresolved issues and impacts arising from the proposed quarry", Mayor Chris White went on to say that not only was there no benefit to the local community, but that it does not make the community stronger and that the tiny amount of gravel being extracted is grossly disproportionate to the impacts. Ultimately, he takes issue with the lack of a model established by the province, whose 2014 policy states that such operations should "minimize social and environmental

impacts" while wanting product closer to market, yet, has not addressed the enormous amount of time born by municipalities when processing such applications, the lack of enforceability of terms and conditions after operations are approved, and the burden of proof that falls to locals of all stripes when proposals such as this threaten their communities. Passions ran high as White went on to express that "this system really sucks. We all need gravel, but this is too close to Rockwood."

This elicited both applause and audible relief from those in attendance and was echoed by Councillor Mark Bouwmeister who directly faults a shameful process that is skewed to aggregate producers and is adversarial in nature. MPP Ted Arnott is currently pushing for change to the aggregate act to achieve greater balance between provincial and local interests, while Halton Mayor

Rick Bonnette has long opposed the quarry primarily because of the haul route which would create hazardous conditions at the intersection of Main and Mill Sts. in Acton, where the current volume of truck traffic is already questionable within the intimate scale of Acton's downtown. Bonnette and others have led the way in proposing constructive reforms to approvals to the province, advocating Joint Agency Review Teams to provide better decision making.

At a pre-hearing conference on November 9 Town solicitors will advise the OMB of the town's official position. The actual hearing will allow for participation by residents and concerned parties.

Other items on the agenda that evening included the sole-sourcing of a sidewalk plow for Rockwood, as the current plow is wider than some sidewalks. A more appropriate wheelbase width of 44" is required.



Over Thanksgiving weekend The Halton Hills Minor Peewee A Thunder's impressive four straight shut-outs (Erindale Spitfires 5-0, Credit Valley Wolves 3-0, Welland Tigers 3-0, Credit Valley Wolves 3-0) earned the tournament hosts a rematch in the final against The Welland Tigers. The Tigers came to win and pressed hard going up 1-0 trading goals with the Thunder until it was 2-2. Ultimately Welland's persistence was no match for Halton's commitment to teamwork as the Thunder were able dramatically burry two late goals in the third and win Halton Hills "Best of the Best" tournament 4-2. - Submitted photo

Township Council states quarry position

Guelph/ Eramosa Township's Council has voted unanimously to advise the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) that Council opposes the approval of the application for the "Hidden Quarry," as appealed to the OMB. Council continues to have serious concerns with the unresolved issues and impacts arising from the proposed quarry and is requesting that the OMB not approve the proposed quarry unless these outstanding concerns are addressed to the satisfaction of the Township.

The application is now before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) for a final decision on the zoning by-law and extraction license referral following an appeal being filed by the applicant, James Dick Construction Ltd. The OMB is an administrative tribunal that conducts hearings and makes decisions that have been appealed under certain provincial legislation.

"In its current form, the application does not clearly establish how this aggregate operation

will guarantee the safety, health and local economy of our community," says Mayor Chris White. "There has been very little demonstrated benefit to our Township.

The Ontario Municipal Board has scheduled a pre-hearing conference for November 9, 2015. The Township's solicitors will attend the pre-hearing and advise the Board of the Township's position. The purpose of the pre-hearing conference is for the Board to understand the parties and participants interested in taking part in the hearing, and to set

dates for a hearing and the exchange of issues and evidence. The Board will not be hearing evidence at the pre-hearing conference.

"Our residents have expressed a number of concerns related to the proposed quarry," says the Mayor. "While some were addressed in technical assessments, a number still remain unresolved in our opinion, or have not been resolved to our satisfaction. In light of this, we are requesting that the Ontario Municipal Board not approve the application in its current state."

New Chief Administrative Officer appointed

Mayor Chris White and the Council of Guelph/Eramosa Township are pleased to announce the appointment of Ian Roger to the position of Chief Administrative Officer for the municipality effective October 13, 2015.

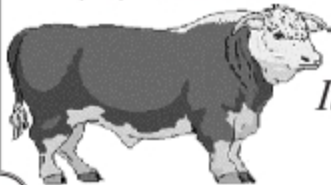
Roger, a Professional Engineer, along with Private sector experience, has held several senior municipal management positions most recently as CAO of Scugog Township. "He

comes to us highly recommended after a thorough recruitment process," said Mayor White. "We look forward to Ian joining our great team of senior managers."

Roger says he and his family are looking forward to the new position and relocating to the area in the months ahead.

Roger replaces Kim Wingrove who recently left to take up the position of CAO for Grey County.

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