



Can Township demand expanded water monitoring by Hidden Quarry proponent?

Residents question quarry impact on well/ground water quality and quantity

Township councillors agree with the Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC) about the critical need for additional well monitoring in connection with James Dick Construction Ltd.'s (JDCL) application for a quarry on the north/east corner of Highway 7 and Sixth Line, between Rockwood and Acton. Now, they will find out if they can get it.

At Council on Monday, CRC members said developing baseline data is needed to gauge cause and effect of the quarry on ground and well water quality and quantity. There are 20 private wells within 500-metres of the proposed quarry, and approximately 25 wells located between 500 and 1,000-metres of the site.

One of them belongs to Stephanie De Grandis, a

CRC Scientific Review Committee chief who said its critical "our wells are safe and the water is drinkable." She said they need to begin to establish true baseline water/pump levels, and monitoring should be done for two years in advance of any quarrying. "We all assume JDCL will assume the cost so they will be paying for all this well testing..." De Grandis said, adding, "it is a major concern."

Seventh Line resident, CRC member Mike Venhuis, a hydrogeologist, said Dick's proposal to monitor one year prior to bedrock extraction is "too late" and additional wells in a larger area, including south of Highway 7, should be monitored.

Venhuis said numbers and computer modelling used by the applicant's

expert to determine the drawdown of water on wells are "flawed." "We'd like to have additional testing done to establish a good base line," he said, adding there should be third-party verification of all monitoring results.

Mayor Chris White said the CRC's request "seems to make sense" and now the Township will determine how to proceed to make it happen. "Do we have authority to demand this, is it something that comes through the MoE (Ministry of Environment)..." White asked, adding "this (water) is one of the main impacts you're going to see with something like this (application)."

White told CRC members the Township would respond to its requests as quickly as possible.



Remember Me? It is a comedic emotional struggle as Kendra Kidnie as Tori Clark, George Newman as Brian Hanson, Brigida Scholten as Mary Hanson, and Keith Assoun as Peter Lawrence appear in the Century Church Theatre's production of Remember When? The run is March 21 to 29, and the March 23 performance will be judged in this year's ACTCO Festival. - Submitted photo

TOWNSHIP DIGEST

ROCKWOOD RINK = SOCIAL HUB

Congrats to the volunteers whose time and talents helped the Max Storey Park in Rockwood win this year's Home Depot Backyard Rink Contest.

In a press release, Guelph/Eramosa Township which owns the rink, said volunteers worked tirelessly all winter flooding, shovelling and maintaining the rink at Max Storey Park, bringing residents of all ages together for skating, hockey and winter fun.

As the winners, volunteers faced off against Guelph Storm players yes-

terday (Wednesday) at the park, located at Dunbar and Ridge Road.

WAGES AND ATTENDANCE

The annual mandatory report of councillors' remuneration, expenses and attendance showed Guelph/Eramosa Township Mayor Chris White, topped the salary list at \$31,299 in pay and meeting fees (33 per cent is tax-free), and at \$4,775, topped the total for training conferences (per diem) and conference training, accommodations and mileage.

Each of the four councillors earned \$10,216 in remuneration, and various

amounts for attendance at council/special council and committee meetings last year.

With a base salary of \$10,261 and \$3,675 for meetings, Councillor David Wolk received the most remuneration of councillors at \$13,891, 33 per cent tax-free.

The report to Council on Monday showed Councillor Cory Woods had perfect attendance at council/special council and committee meetings last year. Mayor White missed two meetings, Councillor Doug Breen missed four meetings, John Scott and Wolk each missed two.



Hidden Quarry location

MPP Arnott wants Highway 7 safety review

The intersection of Highway 7 and Wellington County Rd. 29 is "inherently dangerous" and the Minister of Transportation needs to take action to make it safe, according to Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott.

Arnott rose in the Ontario Legislature last Thursday and called on Minister Glen Murray to investigate and address the safety concerns with the intersection in the Township of Guelph/Eramosa.

"Running very closely parallel to Highway 7, just north of this intersection, is a busy rail line, which I believe is part of the Goderich-Exeter railway," Arnott said.

He added that the rail line is so close to the road intersection that a tractor trailer stopping at the signal lights, in some cases, can have its trailer strad-

dling the rail tracks. "If you think about that for just a minute - a tractor trailer stopped at a traffic light, straddling a rail line - you'd conclude that this intersection is inherently unsafe," he said, noting that just last month, a train collided with a tractor trailer stopped at the lights with the driver suffering minor injuries.

"I call upon the Minister of Transportation to take immediate steps to avert another accident, which I'm afraid to say, is just waiting to happen," Arnott concluded. "I urge him to instruct his staff to do an immediate safety study of the intersection of Highway 7 and Wellington County Rd. 29, with a view to ensuring that this intersection, so close to the rail line, is made safe for the travelling public."