

EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

Backroom talks alleged in Hidden Quarry proposal

The suspicion and mistrust of some of those leading the opposition to the Hidden Quarry proposal – James Dick Construction's plans to mine 700,000-tonnes of high-quality limestone annually from a small site on Highway 7 at the Sixth Line between Acton and Rockwood – took a decidedly controversial turn this week, but will it hurt or help the cause?

Dan Kennaley, Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC) spokesman a Rockwood resident who works as a planner for Woolwich Township, and worked for Caledon during its successful fight against James Dick's Rockfort Quarry – questioned how the application planning process can be open and transparent when there's been a "secret information exchange between the GRCA (Grand River Conservation Authority) and the applicant." He said the public, and probably the Township is not privy to the technical information during those meetings.

Exasperated and incredulous that Kennaley – a planner who knows the process – would make such comments, Guelph/Ermosa Councillor Doug Breen accused him of getting people "whipped into a frenzy," and suggested they all wait until all of the pertinent reports – including the GRCA's – are available for review, and then Council will decide on Dick's required rezoning application for the site.

Ontarians rank high among the consumers of crushed rock, gravel and stone, using the equivalent of one truckload per person, or 164-million tonnes per year. Some of the best aggregate available is the dense and durable rock of the 400-million-year-old Amabel Formation that runs underground through this area – very close to the GTA and its never-ending demand for ingredients for superior concrete and asphalt.

The recent spate of quarry proposals has brought the issues of affordable supply up against environmental concerns – the CRC's main issue is what impact the Hidden Quarry will have on water, and then traffic, roads, lifestyle and property values. The group will need help and deep pockets to get answers to their questions, and perhaps should remember the adage that you get more flies with sugar than vinegar.

PAST PAGES



TEN YEARS AGO

• The Town's "cold enforcement" of its cemetery bylaw – twice bungling the removal of items from graves at Fairview Cemetery – may warm up with plans for a new citizen cemetery advisory committee.

• Acton's councillors vehemently oppose a developer's request to expand the Town boundary in Georgetown South – a proposal that "scared the hell" out of Acton Councillor Clark Somerville.

FIVE YEARS AGO

• The Town officially opened the new lighted Acton Community Sports Park beside the arena, allowing the first night games for the Acton Soccer Club which raised money for the project.

• Acton's new police station opened at 315 Queen St. East, a state-of-the-art facility with fibre optics allowing officers to spend more time patrolling and less time driving to Georgetown to files reports or search records.



SWEET SOUNDS: Music students of Acton's Jennifer Culpepper staged their June piano recital on Friday at St. Alban's Church. The musicians included, from front: Madeleine, Michael and Jack. Middle: Mary-Jane, Reka, Briana, Sena, Tessa, Madison, Aidan and L.J. Back: Madelaine, Lili, Jessamyn, Lori and Lindsey. – Submitted photo

A haunting past - an uncertain future

In school I learned about wars - WW I and WW II, but my history education barely touched on the Korean War or the war in Vietnam, and I have only vague recollections of the Iran in 1979.

I think now, especially if you're under the age of 50, the average person, when given the topic of war, thinks of Al Qaeda and the Taliban or Osama Bin Laden and the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Television, internet and social media give us almost immediate visions of terror, bloodshed and war. I think it must be really challenging for young adults to really understand the two World Wars.

While they grow up in an era of so many religions, races, political beliefs and even things such as same-sex marriage, how can youth really comprehend someone like Hitler, when back then, we had barely figured out the modern day airplane. In 1933, the first Boeing airliner made its initial flight, only six years before WW II. How could we have a world war without a stealth fighter?

This week Laszlo Csatory



By
Angela Tyler

was indicted for war crimes. The former Hungarian police officer was accused of abusing Jews and assisting in their deportation to Nazi death camps during WW II. Csatory is 98 years old. The Simon Wiesenthal Center added him to the list of most-wanted Nazi war criminals last year. Others listed by the Center are no younger than 88 years old and the eldest, if he is still alive would be 101 years old.

In two years, the 70th anniversary of WW II will be marked. Some alleged war criminals have already been acquitted around the world and some still remain fugitives.

Csatory came to Canada in 1949, lying on his citizenship application claiming he was an art dealer. Decades later he was discovered, his citizenship revoked and he fled to his native Hungary two months later in 1997.

Since then, he has apparently led an open life not using

an alias and appeared, until his true past life exposed, to be just an elderly man living his life. His trial is expected to commence in three months.

The question is what do you do with a 98 year old man who almost 70 years ago committed horrible, merciless brutality? I suppose the answer depends on how old you are. If you are old enough to have lived and experienced life in WW II, from living with food rations to seeing concentration camp survivors with their identifying tattoo's numbered like a pig for slaughter, is Csatory living for 70 years with the shame and guilt enough? Let's face it; he is 98 years old and his days are numbered. If you are younger, you may not truly be able to absorb the unspeakable atrocities without the instant ability of internet and television, and only see the grey-haired old man...the picture the media is showing of Csatory.

I do know one thing - in order to avoid repeating past mistakes, we cannot forget the past. I wonder if Csatory remembers his true past.



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