

Hidden Quarry foes schooled on battling quarries

Residents believe they can defeat Rockwood quarry application 'on the science'

It is possible to stop a quarry application – there have been two recent high-profile permit refusals – but it will take a long time, consume peoples' lives, and be very costly, according to Gravel Watch Ontario executive Tony Dowling.

Five years ago Dowling was right where members

of the Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC) are now – beginning to battle plans for unwanted gravel quarry. Dowling's fight is in Woolwich Township. The CRC's focus is the Hidden Quarry proposal by James Dick Construction to mine 700-000-tonnes annually, for 17 years, from a 100-

acre site on Highway 7 at the Sixth Line between Acton and Rockwood.

Dowling, now vice-chair of Gravel Watch Ontario, an industry watchdog, told a standing-room only crowd of CRC members and concerned residents he was encouraged by the turnout at the Acton Town Hall Centre last Wednesday evening.

Putting the CRC battle in a David versus Goliath context, Dowling said James Dick Construction is a big company with a lot of resources, and asked if the CRC has the financial resources, the manpower and the will to fight the proposal because it will take a lot of money and hard work. "You will not win this at your convenience. You will have to do things you don't want to do," he said, asking if the CRC has enough stones to fight a stone producer.

Dowling urged the CRC to be "for" something – preserving the environment protecting farmland and quality of life – and not just be opposed to the application, and to be very

aggressive getting their message out once they've crafted it. He said quarry applications can pit neighbours against neighbours, but said NIMBY, in this case, doesn't mean Not In My Back Yard, but Next It Might Be You because there is an abundance of high-quality, much desired sand and gravel in this area.

He urged the CRC to work with local municipal councils and agencies to share the work and said they should focus on the science.

"Find the gaps, find the weaknesses and then dig into them deeper," Dowling urged the crowd in his primer on successful citizen opposition. Noting that a successful quarry fight can cost six figures, he urged the CRC to begin and continue fundraising efforts and to find a "sugar daddy" if they can, and enlist local businesses, which can write off donations as business expenses.

CRC steering committee member Dan Kennaley, Director of En-

gineering and Planning Services in Woolwich Township, updated the crowd on reviews under way of reports filed with James Dick's application under the Aggregate Resources Act and a rezoning application with Guelph/Eramosa Township that look at noise, traffic, hydrogeology, natural environment, dust and archaeological issues. The CRC wants a cultural landscape and a visual impact study done by the applicant.

CRC scientific lead, local farmer and microbiologist Stephanie De Grandis, said they think "we'll defeat (the application) on the science" because they believe studies will show the geological structure of the area will be harmed by the underwater blasting proposed by James Dick Construction.

In updates, CRC members reported they have \$13,351 in the bank – and need approximately \$350,000 for a successful fight – and are looking for people to canvass neigh-

bourhoods to spread the word about the application,

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, who's Council recently filed a letter of objection to the James Dick Construction application as premature, was not on the agenda, but was asked to make a few comments. Bonnette suggested the CRC should follow the "sage" advice of Gravel Watch Ontario's Dowling, including working with the local council, noting they just can't say no. "You have to put emotions out of the way...use rationale, not emotions- just to say no is not enough," Bonnette said, cautioning citizens to pace themselves, that their fight will be a marathon, not a sprint. He also suggested the CRC contact the Department of Fisheries to review the application

There were approximately 120 people at the meeting. By a show of hands, one-third said they were from Acton, with the rest from Milton, Eramosa Township and Erin.


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Acton District High School would like to thank the businesses below who gave their support to Co-operative Education during the 2012/13 school year. The success of this program is due to your continued support and participation. Your time and help were greatly appreciated and our Co-op students have benefited from the chance to learn new skills under your direction.

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THANK YOU!**



Halton District School Board

David Huale, Director of Education Amy Colard, Chair of the Board

**NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF AN EDUCATION
DEVELOPMENT CHARGES
BY-LAW BY THE HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

TAKE NOTICE that the Halton District School Board passed an Education Development Charges By-law on the 19th day of June, 2013, under Section 257.54 of the Education Act;

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or organization may appeal the By-law to the Ontario Municipal Board under Section 257.65 of the Act by filing with the Secretary of the Halton District School Board on or before the 29th day of July, 2013, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the By-law and the reasons supporting the objection.

The By-law comes into force on June 24, 2013. The education development charges imposed by the By-law are as follows:

- \$2,691.00 per dwelling unit in regard to residential development
- \$0.69 per square foot of gross floor area in regard to non-residential development

The education development charges are imposed on all development of lands in the Region of Halton. Accordingly, a key map showing the location of the lands subject to the By-law is not provided as part of this notice.

A copy of the complete By-law is available for examination in the offices of the Board located at 2050 Guelph Line, J.W. Singleton Education Centre, Burlington, Ontario, during regular office hours or on the Board website at www.hdsb.ca.

Notice of a proposed by-law amending the education development charge by-law or the passage of such an amending by-law is not required to be given to any person or organization, other than to certain clerks of municipalities or secretaries of school boards, unless the person or organization gives the secretary of the Board a written request for notice or any amendments to the education development charge by-law and has provided a return address.

Dated at the City of Burlington this 20th day of June, 2013

David Euale
Director of Education and Secretary to the Board