

Proposed Rockwood quarry is on Halton Hills's radar

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Region of Halton meeting, and that government will also begin following the application.

"We know immediately that there will be truck traffic impact, but to what degree we don't know," said Bonnette.

The Bolton-based company is also asking Guelph-Eramosa Township to rezone the 39.4-hectare site of Hidden Quarry from agricultural land to allow extraction to 30 metres below the water table. Dick spokesperson Greg Sweetnam says it's named Hidden Quarry because trees screen it.

"We won't have any impact on water quality or quantity," Sweetnam said, observing the quarrying won't take any water. "We're basically digging a pond," he said, referring to removing high-quality aggregate in an existing small water body.

"It's a dream site," he said, citing easy highway access to markets in the northern portion of the Greater Toronto Area.

But the excavation of 700,000 tonnes of gravel and rock a year would send at least 26 heavy and dusty trucks an hour onto the two-lane Highway 7, through Acton to Hwy. 401, merging with an equal number of Dufferin Aggregates trucks just south of Acton, stated a blog on the website www.crcrockwood.org, created by the newly-formed Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC).

Though the quarry is in Guelph-Eramosa Township, Linda Sword of CRC said it would also impact Rockwood, Halton Hills and Milton. That includes quality-of-life factors such as extraction noise, dust and truck traffic, and larger issues such as effects on property values.

"There are two ways of looking at this," said Sword. Firstly, the source water, in the easternmost part of the Grand River Watershed, is pristine, with rock extraction raising concerns about water quality, levels and flow through the watershed system. Groundwater there feeds a trout creek that courses into the Eramosa River heading south.

"The other interesting thing is this quarry is across the street, literally across Highway 7, from the (provincial) Greenbelt. There we are protecting our water, our wetlands and forests and agricultural properties and it just takes a highway to separate us from aggregate digging. It's sort of ironic."

Sweetnam said he would try to resolve public concerns, though he warned if the proposal is rejected, the company could ultimately appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board for resolution.

—With files from *The Guelph Mercury*



RICK BONNETTE



•The IFP• Halton Hills, Thursday, May 9, 2013

Cycling challenge is rolling along

As of Wednesday (May 8), the Halton Hills Community Cycling Challenge was 4 per cent closer to its goal of 200,000 km and \$40,000 for the Georgetown Hospital Foundation campaign. So far 111 participants have signed up and have cycled 10,521 km to date. There

are 121 days left in the Challenge. The Carney family (and friend) are among those taking part in the Challenge. From left, are Ryan Carney, with Scarlett Lowrie, 7, on the back, wife Julie Scarlett, Abbey Carney, 10, and Colleen Carney, 13. Photo by Ted Brown

Police/fire blotter

Acton man charged after knife pulled

An Acton man is facing weapon charges after an incident at a bus stop Friday evening.

Halton Police report about 8:30 p.m. a group of six youths walked past a man waiting on a bench for a GO bus at Frederick St. and Mill St. in Acton. There was a verbal exchange between the youths and the man when the man stood up and took a folding knife from his pocket and began waving it around.

The youths left, called 911 and saw the man get on an east-bound GO bus.

Police responded and a short time later stopped the bus, boarded it and arrested a man.

Charged with possession of weapons dangerous and six counts of assault with a weapon is Clifford Carr, 25, of Acton.

...
A rock was thrown through the front window of a home on Queen St. in Georgetown about 3 a.m. Saturday. The estimate to replace the broken window is \$1,000 to \$1,500.

...
Halton Hills Firefighters and Halton Police responded to a call of a vehicle that had driven into the front window of a store at Main St. N. and Jersey Line (Acton) about 8:15 a.m. Saturday.

No one was injured in the incident.

The window and a small brick portion of the building below the window were damaged.

There was no structural damage to the building.

...
Halton Hills firefighters and Halton Police responded to a reported structure fire on Orchard Blvd. about 2:50 p.m. Saturday.

When firefighters arrived, Halton Police were already there and the homeowner was trying to extinguish the fence and shrubs that were on fire. Firefighters quickly put out the blaze.

The homeowner had lit a fire in her four-sided outdoor fireplace when the fire quickly spread. The homeowner's hot tub received minor fire damage to the cover and plastic surround.

The homeowner was told a valid burn permit was required if she planned to do any further open burning.

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