



Mike Foley (left), president of Wastewise of Halton Hills, presents a cheque to members of the Concerned Residents Coalition (from left, Bill Hill, Michele Dawe, Doug Tripp), a group largely based in Guelph-Eramosa Township. Photo by Eamonn Maher

# Wastewise to aid CRC on quarry issue

By **EAMONN MAHER**  
Staff Writer

A group of residents in Guelph-Eramosa Township has mounted a challenge to a proposal by a construction firm that wants to establish a quarry near the border with Halton Hills.

The Concerned Residents Coalition was formed just over a year ago when applications were put forth to the Guelph-Eramosa council and Ministry of Natural Resources by Bolton, Ont.-based James Dick Construction Ltd. to extract aggregate and gravel from a property known as the Hidden Quarry.

CRC supporters say that the quarry would not only have a negative environmental impact in their backyard, but also for Halton Hills residents, who will be impacted by increased truck traffic on area roads.

In response, Georgetown's Wastewise, which was formed in 1991 to primarily reduce, re-use and recycle waste, this week jumped on board and donated \$500 to the CRC and will also procure expert assessment of the potential environmental impact of the Hidden Quarry proposal.

Wastewise president Mike Foley, a Rockwood resident, said the organization has now expanded its focus to become involved in environmental sustainability and that the support of the CRC's efforts is the first time that Wastewise has become involved in assisting a group that's trying to affect change on an environmental level.

"There's going to be a tremendous amount of traffic going through town and it's going to be a constant stream of any-

where between 23 and 30-plus trucks an hour through the main street of Acton from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m.," claimed Foley.

"You've got a significant chance of some sort of accident happening, not to mention noise pollution and damage to roads. There many things for people in Halton Hills to consider when it comes to this quarry. It might be far away in Guelph-Eramosa, but the trucks will be coming through their neighbourhood."

Located just north of Hwy. 7 on the Sixth Line of Eramosa, a few kilometers west of Acton, the proposed quarry also has the CRC concerned that property values will plummet and the water table in the area will be adversely affected.

"We're conscious of the fact these things can go on for years as they've done with other applications, so we're in this for the long haul," said CRC member Doug Tripp, a local resident and engineering consultant who snickered when asked about the name Hidden Quarry.

"I think that reflects some wishful thinking on the part of the proponent. It's not going to be hidden any more than any other quarry. There are these ubiquitous berms scattered all over the Niagara Escarpment and you can recognize there's a quarry behind it when you look through the berm and there's one row of trees with nothing behind them—that's how hidden it is. You can't actually see the excavation but they're not fooling anybody."

St. John's Anglican Church in Rockwood will host and mediate a public forum on the proposed quarry issue on Saturday, May 10 from 2-4 p.m.



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