

Town ratifies Acton Quarry decision

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

After hearing delegations from the public again on the Dufferin Quarry expansion issue at last week's council meeting, Halton Hills Council stood by its decision and ratified its support for the quarry's plan in principle.

At this meeting Council heard from some residents who spoke at the previous council meeting as well as quarry employees who were in favour of the expansion.

Council endorsed Dufferin's application subject to the finalization and acceptance of Dufferin's Adaptive Management Plan, Ecological Enhancement Plan, Aggregate Resources Act Site Plans and Acton Quarry Public Benefits and Environmental Protection Agreement.

Before ratifying the council minutes that would solidify the decision, Mayor Rick Bonnette said Halton Region also supported the plan with the inclusion of a proviso it can't go forward without confirmation from MNR that there would be no outstanding technical issues relating to Jefferson Salamander or any other endangered species habitat.

"I think we have shown though our years of study our due diligence," said Councillor Jane Fogal. "This is one of the most tested quarries in the province as far as making sure the water table is protected and looking after endangered species and the different habitat.

"To get unanimous support at the Region is really quite astonishing for a quarry," said Fogal. "They're very cautious on the environmental front."

Mayor, councillors press for more police action on trucks

Mayor Rick Bonnette and Acton Councillors Jon Hurst, Mike O'Leary and Clark Somerville are requesting a greater enforcement presence to deal with commercial truck traffic across the community, including Norval and Acton.

The group issued a press release late Monday afternoon asking Halton Police to increase enforcement to ensure truck operators are following all safety and traffic regulations.

In a recent commercial truck enforcement blitz in Norval by Halton Regional Police, 15 trucks were inspected, with 12 taken out of service due to defects for an 80 per cent failure rate.

"There are no easy solutions to this situation, but we believe a greater enforcement presence in the affected areas will go a long way to enhancing public safety," said Mayor Rick Bonnette.

In Acton, the downtown and portions of Wallace St. and McDonald Blvd. have

experienced heavy commercial truck traffic for a number of years, but the Town is limited in what it can do to manage the volume.

The Town installed new signs on McDonald Blvd. that read "No Heavy Trucks, Local Deliveries Only" and complement it with enforcement efforts. While it could institute some similar measure on Wallace St., the concern is that this would increase the traffic problem through the downtown, thereby increasing safety risks and potentially hurting local businesses.

Instead councillors and Town staff will speak to local industrial businesses that employ heavy trucks and ask them to use alternate routes where possible.

"The safety of all Acton residents is a concern to members of Council and they do not want to take any actions in one part of the community that increases the safety risk in another," the group said in the Town press release.

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