

Town wants amendment requiring demonstrated need before quarry licence granted

By Lisa Tallyn
ltallyn@theifp.ca

Halton Hills Council is calling on the Province to require quarry operators to show there's a need for the aggregate they plan to extract before they are granted a licence for a new quarry.

Council endorsed the motion put forward by Mayor Rick Bonnette at a recent meeting that asks the Ontario government to amend the Provincial Policy Statement and Aggregate Resources Act to require operators applying for quarry licences demonstrate the product is needed.

Bonnette said Halton Hills Council has been carefully monitoring the James Dick Hidden Quarry application for Rockwood (north side of Hwy. 7 in the Township of Guelph/Eramosa) and

there have been many concerns raised by Rockwood and Halton Hills residents including impacts on well water, wetlands, blasting, noise, dust, air quality, truck traffic and property values.

Bonnette said impacts would be directly felt by many Halton Hills residents.

"Municipalities have little authority to question where proponents decide to put their pits and quarries," said Bonnette.

He said although the current Aggregate Resources Act allows for the Minister to assess the overall provincial demand for aggregate, "it does not re-

quire consideration of how a particular proposed extraction site may or may not contribute to meeting demand. So there is no justification that the extraction site is even needed."

Current provincial rules are "weighted in favour of siting aggregate extraction sites at the expense of other provincial interests such as protecting groundwater and natural heritage and building healthy, safe communities," said Bonnette.

He said his motion "seeks to level the playing field and lead to having more comprehensive planning for in-

dividual extraction sites that is transparent, shows justification and need, and results in more sustainable use of aggregate resources."

The Concerned Resident Coalition (CRC), which opposes the James Dick proposed Rockwood quarry, applauds the step by Council.

"(The) resolution to take the matter to the Province is right on the mark in our estimation," said Doug Tripp, president of the CRC. "There is no question that the skewed policy framework that exists in Ontario has given rise to these quarry and pit battles that besiege so much of southern Ontario—which the Province clearly needs to address."

Council's motion will be forwarded to the Premier, Minister or Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to name a few.

Youth Taxi Scrip starts Friday

The Youth Taxi Scrip project starts on Friday, May 1.

An agency or organization can register, then purchase tickets to provide youth with tickets to use even if the individual youth is not registered.

If a youth anticipates being a regular rider it is preferable that they register themselves and get their own registration number. Users are reminded that the program will transport only within Halton Hills.

Go to www.haltonhills.ca/transit/youthTaxiScrip.php for details



'Municipalities have little authority to question where proponents decide to put their pits and quarries.'

— Mayor Rick Bonnette —

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