

HOLDING FORD TO HIS WORD

PROVINCE MUST RESPECT THE PEOPLE'S WISHES WHEN IT COMES TO ALL QUARRY PROPOSALS, WRITES RICK BONNETTE



RICK BONNETTE
Column

I do really appreciate that Premier Doug Ford was in north Halton on July 29 making an important announcement. While at the news conference, he was asked on his thoughts with respect to the proposed Campbellville (Reid) quarry.

His response: "I am not in favour of that. I believe in governing for the people. And when the people don't want something, you don't do it. It's very simple. I know the mayor, he doesn't want it, no one wants it. I don't want it. We are going to make sure it doesn't happen, one way or another."

On Highway 7, just outside of Acton and Milton, in the Township of Guelph/Eramosa is another proposed quarry, the Hidden Quarry. This mirrors the Reid Quarry proposal in Milton.

I can tell you Mr. Premier, Halton Hills council fought for years against the Hidden Quarry. Halton Hills, Milton and Halton Region sent countless resolutions to your predecessor and past and present ministers as well.

This quarry has been universally condemned by Guelph/Eramosa Township, Halton Hills and Halton Region. A local citizen group, Concerned Residents Coalition, Halton Hills, Milton, Guelph Eramosa and Halton Region spent over \$800,000 oppos-

ing this parallel application. Same acres, same underwater blasting, same traffic issues, same owner.

This quarry received an interim approval in February of this year from the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal. As final approval has not been granted at this point, the Town of Halton Hills, Halton Region and The Township of Guelph/Eramosa are expecting that the Hidden Quarry's approval would be cancelled by your government and the wishes of the local community respected.

Thanks for your efforts

Halton Region is now at Stage 3 of the COVID-19 recovery. We could not have received approval if it wasn't for the efforts of residents to be so vigilant. It's been hard on everyone, but our numbers are low.

Happy retirement

Special thanks for years of dedication to Geoff Cannon, chief of library services, and to John Archibald, whom many of you know from the Mold-Masters SportsPlex arena. Congratulations on your retirement!

Rick Bonnette is the Mayor of Halton Hills. Follow him on Twitter @RickBonnette1 and Instagram rick_bonnette1.

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SNAPSHOT



Chris Cronin photo

Goldfinches snack at a feeder in a backyard in Georgetown. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

ALERT APP HELPS FIGHT PANDEMIC

ONTARIO IS THE FIRST PROVINCE TO USE THIS NEW AND HELPFUL SAFETY TOOL, WRITES PETER WATSON



PETER WATSON
Column

One way to return to a more normal pre-COVID-19 existence is to have contact tracing.

The smartphone app to facilitate this was launched in Ontario on July 31 and is free on both the Google Play and App stores.

To put this in proper context, let's summarize the implication COVID-19 has had on our country.

The illness is very con-

tagious, so it spreads easily when people are not practising social distancing and following other advice from health professionals.

People get sick. People die. Many who recover have long-lasting health problems as a result.

We can't lock down the country. That causes other medical and psychological problems and it absolutely destroys our economy, which also has significant negative human side effects.

Health experts have been saying the key to fighting this disease is to be able to quickly identify those who are sick. Isolate the sick and quickly notify others that have been in contact with them so they can seek medical advice.

Canadians, all levels of governments, and businesses want to get back to some sense of normal life. People will get sick, but we cannot allow that sickness to spread like wildfire.

COVID Alert is an important tool in our battle against the pandemic.

But there is a question, a very big one; that is: Will you use the new app?

For COVID Alert to be effective it must get a large part of the population to use the app.

Your privacy is protected, and if you are notified that you were in close contact with someone who has tested positive, it will be your option on how to proceed with that information.

My hope is that we all install the COVID Alert app.

New technology like this will help keep us all safer. Let's all play our part and use this new and innovative app.

Peter Watson, of Watson Investments MBA, CFP®, R.F.P., CIM®, FCSI, offers a weekly financial planning column, Dollars & Sense. He can be contacted through www.watsoninvestments.com.

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