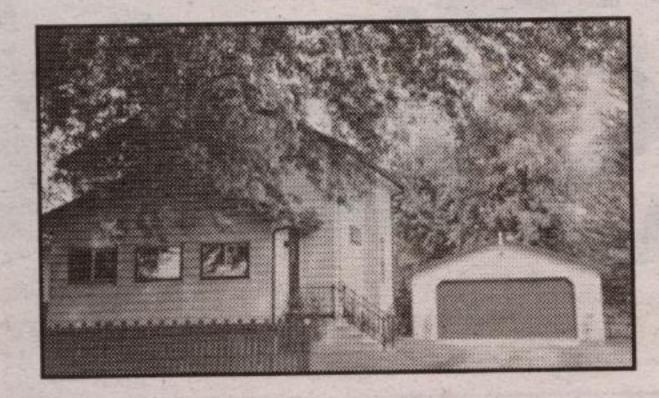
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Dufferin recieves tentative NEC approval

by DONNA DANIELLI

fter a public outcry and letter writing campaign, the Niagara Commission Escarpment (NEC) changed the venue of it's October 17 meeting from Owen Sound to Halton Hills. Although there were a number of items on the agenda, it was the NEC's decision on the Dufferin Aggregate's proposed expansion that filled the Council Chambers to overflowing.

Dufferin Aggregate's proposal would see an additional 83 hectares of land extracted for aggregate, extending the quarry's estimated life of six years by an additional ten to twelve years.

"Everything that we are proposing is within the Niagara Escarpment Plan," explained Dufferin Aggregate's Property and Resource Manager Sarah Lowe. "We made sure of that when we bought the property."

The 31 delegates scheduled to speak before the Commission were fairly evenly divided between supporting the application or in requesting that the NEC refuse the application in its entirety.

Supporters of the application argued that the increasing need for aggregate in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), will soon exceed licensed local supplies. Aggregate is essential for the construction of roads, highways, buildings and more. Furthermore, Ian McNaughton Senior Planner, MHBC Planning Ltd., argued for the need for aggregate to be extracted locally rather than from further away. "Every extra kilometer adds, on an annual basis, 3,500 tonnes of greenhouse gas and an extra 2 million litres of fossil fuel used," he stated. "By keeping it close to market, there is a major environmental benefit."

Those favouring the extension, also reminded the Commissioners that Dufferin has already begun rehabilitation work on one of its quarries and plans to rehabilitate all of itsquarries once they are no longer being extracted. Plans include a deep cold water lake system which will have managed surface elevations. "A quarry can be rehabilitated with a very good fit to the environment," stated Ms. Lowe.

Dufferin employees, and Union Representatives Energy Communications, Paperwork Union, told the Commission to remember the many jobs in the area Dufferin provides, as well as the contributions Dufferin makes to local charities and support of local businesses.

Barbara Halsall, President of Our Water and Protect Environmental Resources (POWER), acknowledged that Dufferin, like many other businesses, "has contributed to worthwhile organizations."

Mrs. Halsall went on to point out that, "The difference is that most

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