

Dufferin Aggregates fined for 2002 accident

By JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Dufferin Aggregates has tightened up on security at its limestone quarry in Milton in the last two years after a worker was injured when the employee's van collided with a fuel delivery truck in May of 2002.

According to a news release issued by the company on August 26, Dufferin Aggregates began adopting preventative measures immediately following the incident. Within the last two years, the company has made some changes along the haul route where the accident occurred, including painting a solid yellow line down the middle of the road to indicate the area is a no passing zone, posting no passing signs along the same route, and erecting a warning sign with a flashing light to indicate if trucks are stopped

along the road. As well as these measures, the company amended its truck safety policy and quarry entrance policy to ensure that no passing is permitted on the haul road.

Earlier this month, St. Lawrence Cement Inc., a Quebec company that operates Dufferin Aggregates, was fined \$150,000 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. St. Lawrence Cement Inc. pleaded guilty to failing to ensure warning measures such as flashing lights, flares, reflectors, lamps or a worker directing traffic.

The violation resulted in serious injuries to the employee, who had worked for Dufferin Aggregates up until the time of the incident. The worker suffered a fracture to the jaw,

nose and bone around the right eye and lost all of the upper teeth. Injuries also included a broken heel and multiple bruises and contusions to the legs and upper body.

On May 27, 2002, the employee arrived at the site to begin shift work when the worker's van collided with a fuel delivery truck heading in the opposite direction. The Ministry of Labour launched an investigation afterwards that determined 39 gravel haulage trucks were parked on a private road inside the quarry's property located at 9410 Dublin Line in Milton. In a press release, the Ministry notes that the "investigation found the line of parked gravel trucks reduced the field of view for drivers going up the hill into the quarry. The parked

trucks, along with truck drivers standing on the roadway outside their trucks, also reduced the available space for vehicles to pass each other."

According to the Ministry of Labour, management at Dufferin Aggregates had taken steps to direct workers to use an alternate route known as the Chalet Road. However, there were still employees that hadn't been directed to use the alternate route, according to the Ministry.

In its press release, Dufferin Aggregates notes that it has a long history of traffic safety milestones including radar speed monitoring, truck safety education, policy communication, and signage postings to alert all drivers about safety requirements.

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Provincial growth management strategy forum

By DONNA DANIELLI

When the provincial government released its new growth management plan, entitled "Places to Grow: A Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe", Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal

David Caplan was vocal about the need for public input on the report. The deadline for submissions on the report may be September 24, but Halton Region is endeavouring to give its residents one more chance to have their say on the plan.

for those unable to attend the meeting.

Regional staff will compile the comments provided by the public into their staff report which is scheduled to be presented at the Planning and Public Works meeting on September 15 and at the Regional Council meeting on September 22. An invitation to attend the public meeting on September 9 has been extended to Minister Caplan and copies of the growth management plan can be found at www.places-togrow.pir.on.ca.

The Region will host a forum on the provincial growth management strategy on Thursday September 9 at the Halton Regional Centre Auditorium. An open house is scheduled for 6:00 pm with presentations beginning at 7:00 pm. Those wishing to make a presentation or needing more information, are encouraged to call Jane Clohecy at 905-825-6000, ext. 7966. The goal of the forum is to give Halton residents the opportunity to learn more about the plan and its implications for Halton, while providing public comments that will assist the Region in developing its response to the plan. Public input can also be provided through the Region's website at www.region.halton.on.ca

The Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal is also hosting a public meeting on the growth management strategy in Mississauga on September 8. Taking place at the Living Arts Centre, this session will include an open house from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, followed by a presentation on the discussion paper and a question and answer period.

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