

# Sarah Harmer calls for wise land choices

## Juno winner wants quarry expansion to stop

STORY AND PHOTO BY ANN KORNUA

Neighbours of the Nelson Aggregate quarry in the Mount Nemo area came out to a public forum on April 28, to present the results of a study opposed to the quarry's recent expansion application. Protecting Escarpment Rural Land (PERL) was formed after a February meeting when concerned residents in the scenic Mount Nemo area wanted to find a way to slow down and possibly halt the constant damage occurring in a bio reserve recognized by the UNESCO.

PERL brought the findings of their research on the north bluffs in Burlington to the meeting. They stated that the proposed development threatens to disrupt the headwaters of two tributaries of the Grindstone Creek. PERL has hired a Hydro geologist to study the water paths within the area and how the quarry expansion may threaten the future water flow within the escarpment face. The Niagara Escarpment area provides habitat for endangered and threatened species, including the Butternut tree, and amphibians such as the Jefferson

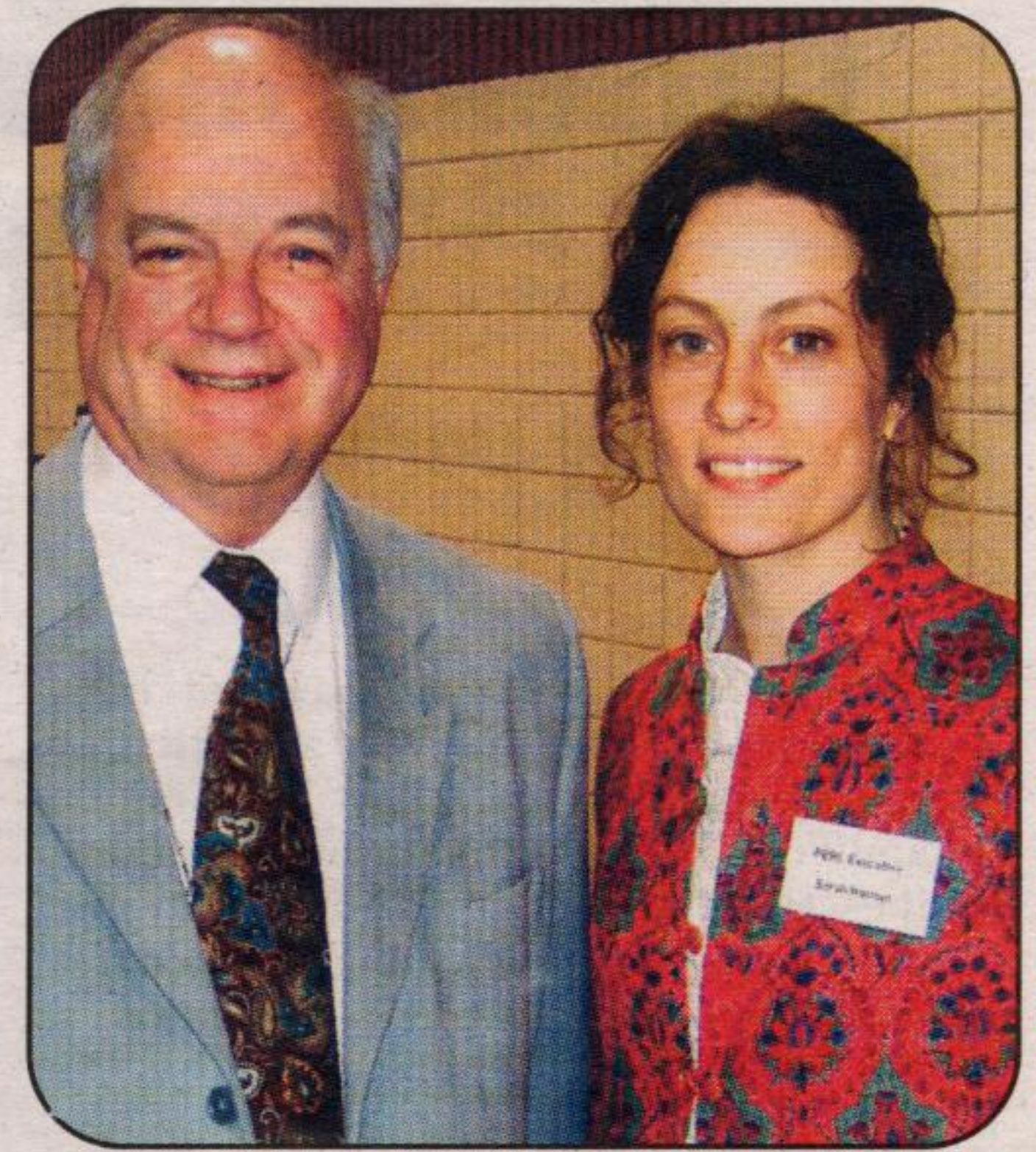
Salamander. Residents enjoy cycling, rock climbing and the quiet beauty of the area.

Chairperson for PERL, Canadian Juno winner Sarah Harmer was emotional when she touched on the fragile state of one of Ontario's important environmental and agriculture reserves. "Agriculture is something that has been kept alive in the escarpment. We all know the Green Belt plan is dedicated to that and we need to preserve that ability. We need to be able to supply ourselves locally and this is something that has to be protected," Sarah said, addressing the forum. In her presentation, Sarah provided aerial images of the size of the total expansion, along with the current existing quarry. The other concern was the natural run of water in the intricate caves that run below in the escarpment face. "We need to make wise land choices," Sarah said. "We have to consider the permanent damage that occurs in our sensitive areas because they sustain us."

Burlington Council member John

Taylor spoke during the meeting on the expansion application and the official plan policies. Since the first meeting, Councillor John Taylor has been supportive towards the goals of PERL and the residents who live around the quarry area. "This meeting had more impact than the last one, but the committee has done a lot more work and has a lot more knowledge of the application and the process," John Taylor said. "They are keeping in touch with me at least once a month on what they are working on and I just outline tonight the independent research I am going to be doing. I have always been interested in the issue, but the first meeting last November, people's stories touched me personally. When will enough be enough?"

PERL noted that for over a half-century limestone has been mined, crushed, and extracted from this north Burlington quarry. Residents in the surrounding areas have lived with ground vibrations, truck traffic, dust, and ground water disturbances. The Nelson quarry is one of the largest quarries



Burlington City Councillor of Ward 3, John Taylor with Juno winner and Chairperson for PERL, Sarah Harmer discussing the application for the Nelson Quarry expansion.

in Ontario and PERL feels it is about time that new locations for aggregate mining are found outside of environmentally sensitive areas. To contact PERL, you can email [info@perloburlington.org](mailto:info@perloburlington.org) or call 905-332-1242.

## Waste not, want not

### Halton's Spring Compost Give Away!

Halton Region's popular spring compost give away kicks off again on Monday, May 9 and runs until Monday, May 16, from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (excluding Sunday) at the Halton Waste Management Site, 5400 Regional Road 25 in Milton.

Halton's residential yard waste program composts yard waste collected from curbsides into a natural, garden-friendly soil conditioner. This program is a key part of the Region's ongoing strategy to divert waste from the landfill and is integral to Halton maintaining one of the highest diversion rates in the GTA, at 41.6 per cent. Twice a year, residents are invited to collect compost as a thank you for supporting this environmentally friendly initiative.

"Halton is committed to supporting waste diversion through composting," said Halton Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline. "One of the many benefits of our yard waste collection program is that leaves and garden waste can be turned into compost and reused as a soil amendment for gardens instead of being thrown away. Composting not only benefits our residents by providing them with top-quality product for their gardens, but also helps extend the life expectancy of our landfill site."

Residents are encouraged to bring along a donation of a non-perishable food item. Cash donations to local food banks will also be accepted in lieu of food donations for those who choose to donate.

"Last year, during our spring and fall compost give away days, 8,030 Halton households collected Regional compost to help their gardens grow. Our residents generously donated 1,026 boxes of food — that's almost 12 tonnes. In addition to their generous food donations, a record of \$12,320 was collected to help support the important work of local food banks. Halton residents should be proud. Their ongoing efforts make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate, as well as having a positive impact on our environment," said Chairman Savoline.

This is the 11th year of Halton's compost give away program. Residents must bring their own bags or containers (maximum seven per household) and a shovel in order to bag their own compost. This spring, more than 1,000 tonnes of refined compost will be available to residents.

## D'Arcy Keene seeks Conservative nomination

Longtime Conservative party activist and businessman D'Arcy Keene announced that he will be seeking the Conservative Party nomination in Halton Riding.

"I am very proud to announce my candidacy and look forward to promoting the values and principles of Halton residents," said the 45-year-old Milton resident and father of two.

"Canadians are extremely upset by the corruption and mismanagement of the federal Liberal Party," said Keene. "Restoring integrity and honesty to government can only begin if the Conservative Party wins back ridings such as Halton."

Keene is a successful businessman in the IT consulting field and has a long history in Conservative Party politics at the provincial and federal levels. He has stood as a federal candidate twice in the past, served as a Vice President of the Ontario PC Party under Mike Harris, and managed and chaired several campaigns.





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HELD AT THE GEORGETOWN FAIRGROUNDS



Canadian National Heavy Armour Jousting Championship



Fireworks At Dusk

(Monday Night Admssion after 6:00PM)

**Schedule of Events:**

**Friday May 20th**  
 11:00 am • Canadian National Heavy Armour Jousting Championship (School Special Price)  
 • Conklin Supershows Midway

**Saturday May 21st & Sunday May 22nd**  
 • Conklin Supershows Midway • Pony rides  
 2:00PM • Canadian National Heavy Armour Jousting Championship

**Monday May 23rd**  
 • Conklin Supershows Midway • Pony rides  
 • Classic Car & Tractor show  
 2:00PM • Final Competition Canadian National Heavy Armour Jousting Championship

Parking Available at the Civic Centre and Main St. Municipal

Sponsored by the Halton Compass

PARK OPENS DAILY AT: 10:00AM

ADMISSION PRICES

Jousting	Fireworks (Monday night after 6:00 PM)
Child \$10.00	Adults & Children \$5.00
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MAP



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