

Dufferin seeking to expand Acton quarry

Alarm bells are peeling softly for Mayor Rick Bonnette after hearing about a plan to expand Dufferin Aggregates' Acton Quarry.

"I have concerns with the expansion of 500 acres right on edge of Acton," the mayor said, after the expansion plans at a Halton Region planning and public works committee meeting were released in a staff memo last week. The Acton Quarry is located on the north and south sides of 22 Sideroad between Regional Rd. 25 and Fourth Line.

Halton Region Commissioner of Planning and Public Works Peter Crockett outlined the proposal in the memo to committee members.

- The proposed expansion lands include a 40 hectare (100 acres) property immediately to the north and 175 hectares (432 acres) immediately to the south.

- Dufferin says it has about five to six years remaining at the current quarry (about 15 million tonnes)

- Dufferin is expected this month to make formal applications for a regional Official Plan amendment, and other Planning Act, Aggregate Resource Act and Niagara Escarpment Plan.

Andrea Bourrie, Dufferin Aggregates' Property & Resource Manager said Dufferin Aggregates has not yet made a business decision on the quarry's expansion, but is working on "a long-term vision" for the quarry and the lands it owns adjacent to it.

"A quarry extension is one important business consideration in this long-term vision," she said yesterday. "Other considerations include land use features with considerable public value, including sports and recreational facilities, trail systems and naturalized areas for ecological benefit. Our long-term vision may include setting aside many acres of land

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RICK BONNETTE

for public use, environmental protection, reforestation and environmental enhancements, in parallel with a quarry extension."

Part of decision-making process, Bourrie said, included agency pre-consultations and the formation last fall of a Joint Agency Review Team (JART) approved by Halton Region.

She confirmed that based on current market conditions, the Acton Quarry currently has a lifespan of about five to six years. In November the Ministry of Natural Resources approved a revision to the quarry's licence, increasing tonnage removal from 3.5 million tonnes/year to 4.5 million tonnes/year.

"We think it is important for us to work now to make business decisions about the future supply of aggregate," she said, adding a close-to-market supply of aggregate is critically important to meeting its growing demand—the GTA currently uses about 62 million tonnes of aggregate per year.

"If this aggregate was transported from only 30 km further away an additional 163,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas would be emitted into the atmosphere and 59 million of extra fuel consumed. Given the concerns regarding

the global warming and shortages in oil, ensuring a close-to-market supply of aggregate will ensure these environmental impacts are reduced," Bourrie said.

Bonnette listed a number of negative issues such as the impact of truck traffic on local roads, the extent and timing of the expansion, and the lack of rehabilitation on the current site.

At the same time he noted that Dufferin Aggregates is a good corporate citizen and that it's still early in the process—and "a lot of questions still need to be answered."

Barbara Halsall, a member of POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) is disappointed that the JART had been formed in November, but the first the public heard of the expansion was through this staff memo to regional councillors.

"Once JART was formally established the information should not have been kept hidden from the public and the elected people," Halsall said in an interview Tuesday. She expects that as POWER learns more about the expansion plans, the group will have more to say at that time.

Bourrie had to cancel a presentation to the committee last week but hopes to reschedule sometime in late March.

"We are making plans for a comprehensive and very public land use planning process once we have made business decisions about the Acton Quarry lands. These plans may include a community liaison committee to assist us with detailed planning for this long-term vision, together with land use design workshops, a website, newsletters and public open houses."

(Cynthia Gamble can be reached at cgamble@independentfreepress.com)

Drinking & Driving A DEAD END

If you get behind the wheel, after you've had a drink or two, you're already headed in the wrong direction. Don't make a trip to the hospital or the morgue part of your day. Steer clear of trouble. Head home sober.



PUBLIC MEETING

Parking Standards Proposed Zoning By-law Amendments to the Acton By-law 1358 and Georgetown By-law 57-91

Town of Halton Hills File No. T02-PA/Parking for Townhouses

Council for the Town of Halton Hills will conduct a Public Meeting to examine and discuss proposed Zoning By-law amendments to the Acton By-law 1358 and Georgetown By-law 57-91. The proposed Town initiated amendments provide consistent parking standards for new townhouse developments.

The proposed amendments regulate the number of off-street parking spaces required per townhouse dwelling as well as the minimum size of a parking space, including unobstructed parking space. Specifically, the proposed amendments will:

- Increase the number of off-street parking spaces required per group/block townhouse dwelling, including visitor parking
- Increase the number of off-street parking spaces required per one street/multiple attached townhouse dwelling
- Specify a minimum area standard for the overall size of a parking space and unobstructed parking space within a single car private garage, a double car private garage with a separating wall, and a double car garage without a separating wall.

The proposed amendments also apply to detached and semi-detached dwellings, specifying the minimum number of required parking spaces and parking space dimensions.

Because the proposed amendments will apply to lands zoned for detached, semi-detached and townhouse development in Acton and Georgetown, no map showing lands subject to the proposed amendments is provided.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Halton Hills in respect of the proposed Zoning By-law amendments, you must make a written request to the Town of Halton Hills at 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, Ontario L7G 5G2.

If a person or public body that files a notice of appeal of a decision of the Town of Halton Hills in respect of the proposed Zoning By-law amendments does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Halton Hills before the amendments are adopted, the Ontario Municipal Board may dismiss all or part of the appeal.

Further information is available from the Planning Department, Town of Halton Hills, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, Ontario L7G 5G2, or contact the Planner assigned to the file, Damian Szybalski at 905-873-2601, ext 2289. A copy of the related Staff Report will be available the Friday before the date of the scheduled public meeting on the Town's website at: http://www.haltonhills.ca/hap_news.asp

ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE WELCOME.

DATE/TIME: Monday, February 19, 2007 @ 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Civic Centre

FILE NO: T02-PA/Parking for Townhouses 16

1 Halton Hills Dr., Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2
Tel.: 905-873-2600
Fax: 905-873-2347

Memorial service planned for Sunday for former local Ontario Court Justice

Retired Ontario Court Judge Douglas Latimer, a Georgetown native, passed away last week in Oakville, having served on the bench for 32 years.

Latimer became a Crown Attorney in 1968 and became a judge of the Ontario Court of Justice in 1972.

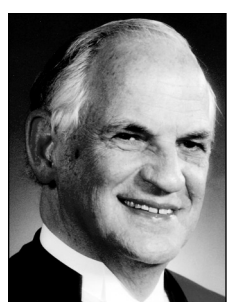
Working for the law firm owned by Andrew Dale and former MPP Cybil Bennett, Latimer took over the practice in the late 1950s. He lived in Oakville with his family for about the last 20 years.

"It seemed like everyone knew him. He was very good-natured and once you met him, you would know him as a friendly person," said longtime local lawyer Fred Helson, who went to Osgoode Law School with Latimer. "Most people would know him as a judge but he was well known as a lawyer for a number of years as well."

As a young man, he joined the RCN(r) HMCS York and finished his naval career as a Lieutenant-Commander.

Latimer is survived by his wife, Milree, son David and daughter Janice, son-in-law Steve Kostyshen, two grandchildren, Alex and Jack, sister Joan Randell (Roger), sister-in-law Ruth, nieces Gloria and Julie, nephews Scott and Mark, sister Judi Egelnick, sister-in-law Isabelle Tompkins (Wayne), nieces Heather and Kathryn, and nephew Philip. He was predeceased by mother Tryphosa, father Donald and brothers George and Ron.

A memorial service will take place Sunday at the Glen Oaks Memorial Chapel at Dundas and the Ninth Line in Oakville beginning at 2 p.m. Donations can be made to the Honourable Mr. Justice Douglas V. Latimer Scholarship Fund at St. Mary Academy-Bay View, 3070 Pawtucket Avenue, Riverside, R.I. 02915 or the charity of your choice.



DOUGLAS LATIMER

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