

Mayor alerts Norval residents to possibility of nearby quarry

CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

Mayor Rick Bonnette is raising the alert on a possible shale quarry, located just north of the village of Norval, on the Peel side of the municipal border.

Bonnette has written a notice letter, to be hand-delivered, to all village residents, as well as an enquiry letter to Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell.

Ward 2 Councillors Joan Robson and Bryan Lewis and Wards 1&2 Regional Councillor Clark Somerville also signed the residents' letter.

"We want to be proactive on this," said Bonnette in a telephone interview. "We plan to go door-to-door in Norval so that everyone knows about it."

And the councillors and the mayor, themselves, delivered the letters to the vil-

lage homes on Monday and Tuesday (yesterday). The mayor said the reaction he has had so far from the people he met on his "delivery route" has been surprise and dismay.

At last week's council meeting Bonnette expressed concern about the potential quarry.

Planning Director Bruce MacLean said he has talked to the new owners, Brampton Brick, about the 86-acre property on the east (Peel) side of Winston Churchill Blvd. at Old Pine Rd., and they had indicated to him that they planned to

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RICK BONNETTE

quarry the shale resources on the property.

Under the Peel Official Plan, the shale can be extracted from the land.

MacLean said while the company has filed no official application yet, it plans to seek rezoning of the property and Ministry of Natural Resources

licensing under the Aggregates Act next year.

"I'm sure the people of Norval will be pleased to read about this in the newspaper," said Bonnette sarcastically at the meeting.

In his letter to the residents, Bonnette said, "I'm sure you will appreciate the issues and concerns that an extraction type use can generate whether it's truck traffic, land use compatibility, noise or dust issues or environmental impact issues such as the potential for interference with the residential wells or the area water regime, etc."

Bonnette's letter to Brampton counterpart Fennell requested immediate notification of any formal application so that Town can follow and comment on the process. His letter was copied to Halton Region.

Norval residents wishing more information are asked to contact MacLean, 905-873-2601, ext. 2296.

—Cynthia Gamble can be reached at cgamble@independentfreepress.com

To reach high environmental standards

Fire station pricetag jumps \$300K

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Halton Hills's two newest fire stations will be built to high environmental standards—a LEED silver certification level.

In a recorded vote last week, council voted to spend another \$303,100 to ensure both the Georgetown headquarters building on 10 Sideroad at Eighth Line and the joint fire and EMS station on Maple Ave. get the extra treatment. (The Town will spend \$262,962 and Halton Region's share for the EMS station is \$40,000.) It will bring the estimated total of the two fire stations to \$7.68 million.

The source of the additional funding will be from development charges (DCs) for the south station and from DCs and a reserve fund for the central station.

A LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver rating is the one most targeted by municipalities for new capital projects.

Among the items included will be a higher efficiency HVAC system representing a 23 per cent reduction in energy use, rainwater harvesting system for truck fill and washing, certified wood products and use of renewable, recycled and energy-efficient materials.

Voting against spending the additional cost were Ward 1 Councillor Mike O'Leary, Ward 2 Councillor Bryan Lewis and Ward 4 Councillor John Duncan. The three worried about the costs to even construct the building are still estimates at this stage and could increase at tender time.

But Chief of Operations John Martin said the building must be designed to a certain level before proceeding to tendering. Staff will then report back to council with a firm price.

O'Leary also pointed out there is no guarantee that buildings will receive a Silver rating despite the design efforts— "will we get our \$300,000 back?"

"No, but you will have likely have a more efficient building than what you started with and the \$300,000 would have been invested well," replied Jane Stewart, Thomas Brown

Architects, the firm hired to design the two fire stations.

Ward 1 Jon Hurst's motion to spend even more money— \$470,000 for a geothermal heating and cooling system— was voted down.

"I think the benefit is that we can tell our constituents that we have opted for the heating system that will not rely on fossil fuels other than for backup heat. ... It's an investment in our future. We've got one chance to do this, and this is our chance," said Hurst.

"We're building today for tomorrow ... at some point we have to take a stand, and we have to decide to start building our buildings properly," said Hurst, who asked for the recorded vote.

But Wards 3&4 Regional Councillor Jane Fogal said she would rather spend the money on the library project.

Ward 4 Councillor Bob Inglis agreed, adding that it's likely the \$11.5 million Cultural Centre & Library project will be built to LEED standard as well.

"We are talking a large amount of money and I got to tell you I do have some concern about where all this money is coming from," he said.

Voting against Hurst's motion were Duncan, O'Leary, Lewis, Fogal, Inglis, and Ward 3 Councillor Dave Kentner. Voting for was Hurst, Mayor Rick Bonnette, Ward 2 Councillor Joan Robson and Wards 1&2 Regional Councillor Clark Somerville.

Ward 3 Councillor Moya Johnson was absent for the meeting.

—Cynthia Gamble can be reached at cgamble@independentfreepress.com

Town, firefighters agree to new four-year contract

Halton Hills council ratified a four-year deal with its full-time unionized firefighters at a meeting Monday (Oct. 15).

The deal is effective January 1, 2007 and continues until December 31, 2010. The 24 staff members will receive a 3 per cent wage increase in each of the four years.



Town employees honoured

The Town of Halton Hills held its Employees Recognition night honouring 51 employees for a variety of years of service. Receiving longtime service certificates, were, (front) Fire Chief Brent Marshall 35 years. Back row, from left, Sharon Perkins 30 years, Jeanette Collier 25 years and Mayor Rick Bonnette 25 years.

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