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forming a citizens' group called the Concerned Citizens of Campbellville.

George Minakakis is one of those citizens and he said there are concerns about what it will do to their water supply, truck traffic on the roads and what the blasting could do.

"I've lived here 20 years and I had no idea this was here," he said. "Now we're doing our due diligence at this point and trying to find out as much as we can."

Campbellville resident Gerry Ireland said he and his wife Margaret moved to the hamlet 16 years ago for retirement.

Since then, he's spent money on wells and septic systems, and those are among his many concerns about the proposal.

"This could absolutely destroy the aquifer," he said. "The water is my biggest concern."

Most residents agreed they know little about quarries but expressed worry and concern over the proposal.

Their largest concern was disruption of their water supply.

Many of the nearby residents admitted they had no idea the quarry even existed.

Poster boards of the extraction sequence, including photographs of what the operation could potentially look like, were displayed.

JDCL president Jim (James) Dick also spoke



Julie Slack/Metroland

Hundreds of residents came out to an open house at the Reid Road Reservoir Quarry (at Twiss Road) in Campbellville on Aug. 29 to hear more about the James Dick Construction Limited proposed quarry.

with residents.

He told the Champion that he believes the proposal will be approved, after going through all the proper channels.

"I think it's a good idea," he told the Champion, adding he's used to residents expressing their concerns to such a proposal.

He operates four other quarries in southern Ontario and said people will see an increase in their water, not a decrease.

Dick said they will be extracting below the water table to a depth of up to 30 metres. He noted that extracting below the water table is a standard and common practice in southern Ontario and does not result in loss or consumption of groundwater resources.

Dick acknowledges people have legitimate concerns, but reassured them

that their current quarry in Guelph, which also blasts below the surface, has never resulted in an issue.

In its proposal JDCL has outlined a response to water well interference complaints:

"Should a water supply well interference complaint be received, an investigation will be conducted by a qualified professional to determine if the interference was caused by the pit/quarry operation. If it is determined that the problem is attributed to the pit/quarry operation, the operator will be responsible for restoring the domestic water supply to its original condition as soon as possible, or providing an alternative source at the operator's expense."

In addition, groundwa-

ter and surface water monitoring programs are automatically in place, as well as manually checked.

A traffic study suggests that a "worst-case" scenario would see 16 truckloads in a peak hour.

Plans are in place for berms and acoustic barriers to control noise from the drilling, extracting and crushing process. Blasting noise impacts will be monitored, which includes hir-

ing an independent blast consultant for the first 12 months of operation.

JDCL estimates there will be 30 blasting events in the quarry annually, each lasting about one second, for a combined total of 30 seconds per year.

"The vibration and overpressure created by these blast events (which will occur underwater) will meet all applicable regulatory guideline limits, which prevent any off-site damage," the JDCL handout reads. In addition, it states that there will be no chemical residues or water quality concerns due to blasting.

Various ponds on-site will contain fish and salamander breeding ponds.

Literature at the meeting suggests wildlife thrives in operating aggregate sites, noting an osprey nesting platform that's operating at Caledon Sand and Gravel, similar to those proposed at Reid Road Reservoir Quarry.

Another poster board featured the Canadian Champion newspaper coverage from 1976, tracing the

origin of Reid Sideroad, constructed specifically as "an aggregate haul road."

Of course, today, that road and several streets off that road, such as Stokes Trail, and Crawford Crescent, make up a thriving subdivision with newly-constructed, million-dollar homes being built in recent years.

While the engineers and technical spokespeople were helpful in explaining the process to concerned residents throughout the evening, Best encouraged them to remember that they are only hearing one side of the story, and that all those providing information were representatives of the company.

In southern Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) regulates pits and quarries via a licensing and permit system under the Aggregate Resources Act. To this end, Dick said he thinks it could be operational in three years if plans proceed as he hopes they will.

The open house is just one step in the required process.

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