

HRCA vetoes interception quarry will approach OMB

Dufferin Quarries has received an official veto from Halton Region Conservation Authority executive regarding quarrying of company land along the Sixteen Mile Creek water course. Dufferin plans to take the case to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Dufferin expansion plans call for quarrying to commence on an additional 245 acres in Nassagaweya. The company is presently quarrying 80 acres in the township and owns about 800 acres.

The construction materials company has divided its proposed site into phase one and phase two. Phase one, which HRCA executive approves, includes 110 acres to the south of the present flow of the Sixteen Mile Creek.

Objection

Phase two of the project encompasses 135 acres of land which will intercept the creek. HRCA members voiced their immediate objection when company plans were announced in December. They have since refused to lift their veto until a study can be made of the creek to determine the adverse effects the quarry may have on it and what steps can be taken to counter these problems.

It is feared that once quarrying has intercepted the creek the water may no longer continue to follow its present course. The positioning of the quarry may redirect the flow to follow a smaller branch of the creek that has no capacity for the additional water nor any flood control devices along its banks. The branch concerned merges with the main branch of the Sixteen Mile Creek just north of Main St. in Milton.

HRCA executive also feared a rerouting of the creek would eliminate the usefulness of dams constructed at Kelso and Hilton Falls to control the level of the creek. The construction costs of the dams total one and a half million dollars.

Important dams

Kelso dam and the newly constructed Hilton Falls dam perform an essential function, controlling the level of the creek during all seasons and ensuring water flow is sufficient to disperse effluent from the Milton sewage treatment plant. The dams also provide enough water to support wildlife along the creek's route to Lake Ontario.

Dufferin quarry representatives Frank DeWitt, John McCombe and Ian Wilson heard HRCA arguments against the tentative quarry plans at an executive meeting at the county building Thursday night.

DeWitt said he was "confused" about his company's application to Nassagaweya township and questioned why the Conservation Authority had opposed the plan since December. He felt all conservation quarry problems have since been cleared up.

Needs more land

He pleaded with the executive to consider that the land in question belongs to Dufferin Quarries and that the company needs 70 to 80 more acres to carry on operations.

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DeWitt reminded the authority his company had agreed to pump the water and commence ponding operations to keep the creek flowing on its intended course.

"Have we given you now everything needed to withdraw the objection?" he continued. "It's getting to the point where we're really reaching. What really is the problem? We want to be good citizens," stated DeWitt. "Unless you people are bound and determined to stop us from quarrying, I don't know where we stand."

Coxe concerned

"I'm concerned, very concerned," said HRCA executive Len Coxe. Coxe realized the company would assume pumping and ponding responsibilities as soon as quarrying operations begin in that area, but queried DeWitt regarding company plans 30 to 40 years from now when the quarry moves on to another site. "What will happen to the water then?" asked Coxe.

"You're asking the ultimate plan of the quarry," interpreted DeWitt.

"I am not asking the ultimate plan of the quarry," argued Coxe, saying he was concerned only with the water and the effect it will have on the "acres below this." We have "nothing to assure us the water will be all right," he continued.

"Would you have your lawyer draft up an agreement," challenged John McCombe from beside DeWitt. He mentioned what was needed here was "something firm and binding for both parties."

Road problem

Coxe, also Deputy-Reeve of Esquering Township, questioned the ability of the company to enter into a firm and binding agreement. He spoke in reference to the road allowance running through Dufferin land joining Nassagaweya's seventh concession to Esquering First Line.

He brought it to the attention of the quarry representatives that their company had embarked on an earlier agreement stating the road allowance was to remain in township hands.

Recently Dufferin Quarries had approached the townships with the possibility of closing the road for a time while it is quarried out. They promised to return it to the townships, at a somewhat lower elevation, when the work was done. Up to now councils have refused to renounce their claim to the land.

"I won't go along with closing the road," emphasized Coxe.

Give it back

"We've agreed to give you back the road allowance when we are finished with it," replied DeWitt.

"Give it?" questioned Coxe.

"Give it, sell it, whatever," retorted DeWitt.

HRCA chairman Brock Harris interjected, saying "I think you have plenty of rock to continue your operations seven - eight - 12 years. We intend to restrict you until we get some technical data as to how you will affect the headwaters of the Sixteen Mile Creek."

Harris suggested the company apply only for rights to quarry phase one of their project and speculated they would receive no opposition from the conservation authority.

"We've reached an impasse," answered DeWitt.

"You're only willing to give a bit."

"That's right," confirmed the chairman.

Wants study

HRCA Manager Murray Stephen suggested the quarry apply for development of phase one and have phase two held in trust, pending the results of a study into the headwaters of the creek.

DeWitt informed the conservation authority the problem will be taken before the Ontario Municipal Board for a hearing and the OMB will pass judgment on the matter.



TWO TRUSTEES acclaimed to education seats in last week's nominations were Douglas Wood (left) of Hornby who was returned unchallenged to Halton Region Board of Education, and Angelo Tonelli of Milton who was acclaimed to the Halton Separate School Board for a three year term. Both have many years of experience in school work.

1886 poster

Tells story of Chicago riot

Long time Miltonian and former attorney Tommy Hutchinson conveys an interesting story concerning the Haymarket Riot in Chicago in 1886.

Apparently the riot was triggered by radical anarchists and among them was Emma Goldman. Emma was eventually ejected from the United States and lived the rest of her life in Canada, where she continued her radical ways, fighting both as an anarchist and a feminist crusading for women's rights.

A recent news story reviewing a book about Emma triggered Tommy's old interest in the subject. As it turns out Tom's uncle was on the Chicago police force and became involved in the same Haymarket riot. His uncle gave him a poster from the riot which Tommy still has among his possessions. Tom figures the poster to be the only one like it still around.

Circular

The poster is an original circular of the meeting which caused the riot May 4, 1886. The poster in part reads, "Attention workingmen, great mass meeting tonight at 7.30. Good speakers will be present to denounce the latest atrocious act of the police, the shooting of our fellow workmen yesterday afternoon. Workingmen, arm yourselves and appear in full force." The message was signed by the executive committee and

reported below in German. Mr. Hutchinson's uncle had been working with the Chicago police at the time. The uncle's role in solving the sausage king murder case received grand reviews in the police gazette.

As the story goes a man had killed his wife and disposed of the body in a sausage grinder. On investigation Mr. Hutchinson's uncle found the woman's ring near the grinder and solved the case.

Apparently Tom's uncle George had quite an exciting life. Not only was he involved as a police officer in the Haymarket riot and the famous sausage king murder, but according to his nephew he fought with the United States Cavalry and was part of a delegation that came to terms with the Indians after Custer's last stand.

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"MEET ME AT THE MARKET" is becoming a popular local saying as crowds flock to the Milton Farmers' Market each weekend from spring until Thanksgiving weekend. The popular market draws large crowds each Saturday morning, 7.30 a.m.

until 12 noon, and they come from miles around to buy fresh produce, see and hear the entertainment and chat with their friends and neighbors. Milton Chamber of Commerce sponsors the market. (Photo by R. Downs)

Committee may study hunting

A committee may be formed to study hunting in Halton County and, more particularly, hunting in Halton County forest tracts. At last week's county administration committee meeting, members agreed to a request from the Ministry of Natural Resources to set up a committee to discuss the status of hunting.

The committee had earlier decided to ban hunting in the forest tracts, as well as snowmobiling, but after representation from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters the decision was suspended and hasn't been reversed or confirmed yet.

Esquering Deputy Reeve Len Coxe, suggested the committee should take some positive action and rule on the matter and end the business of writing letters back and forth.

The committee recommendation was to be dealt with at council today (Wednesday).

—Visits, visitors, parties and other special celebrations are all news for The Champion's "About the Town" column. Items can be phoned to Mrs. Dolores Melanson at 878-3138.

"VOTE BEST FOR MAYOR" in Central Halton

See page B5

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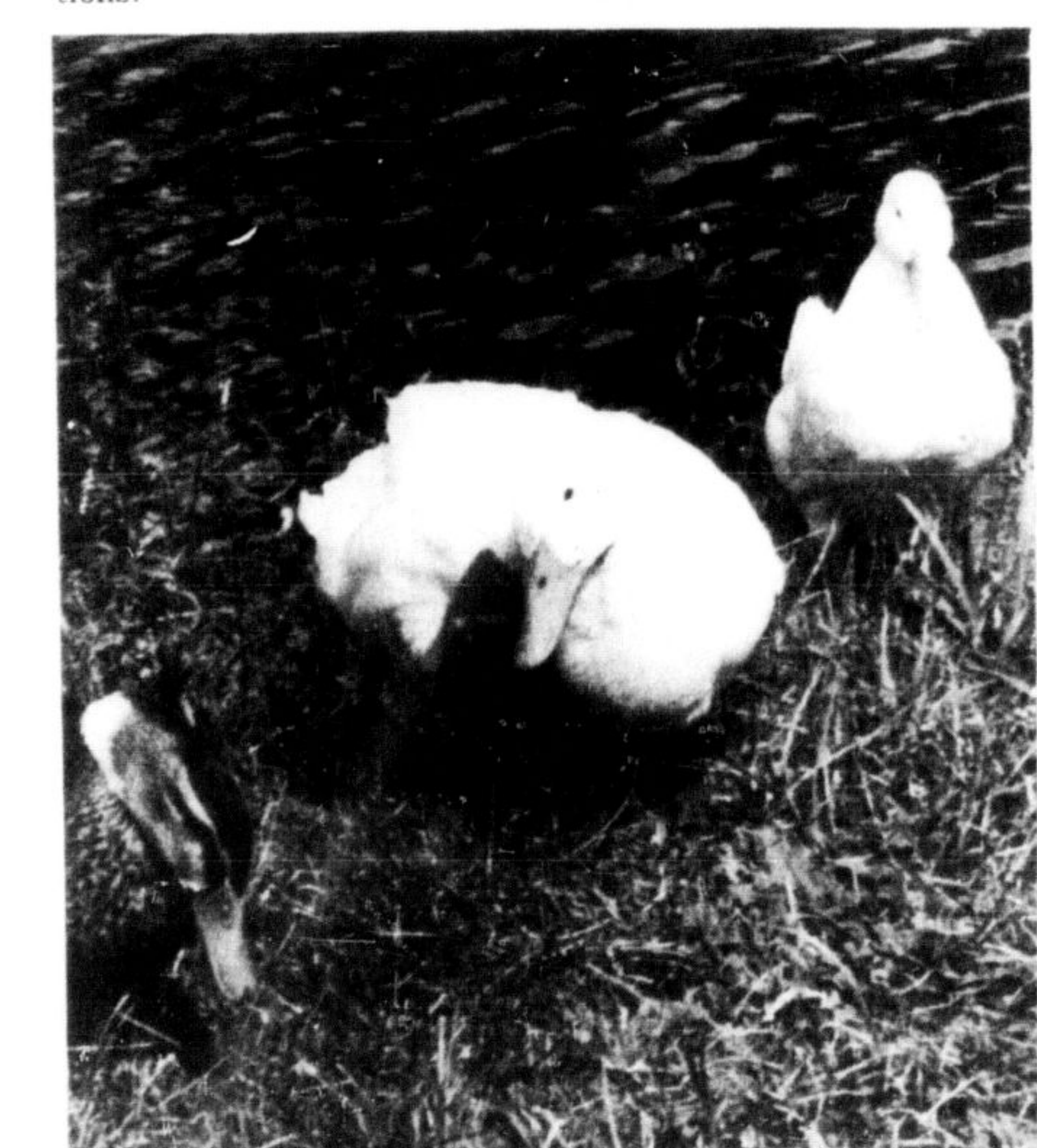
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