

# Residents oppose Dufferin's plan for expansion

By LISA TALLYN

Special to The Champion

Plans by Dufferin Aggregates to extend its Milton quarry northward has sparked concerns of residents who live in the area.

A petition signed by 65 residents who live near the quarry and are concerned about the expansion was presented to Halton Hills council September 18.

No. 15 Sideroad resident Marion McMeeken said residents in the area are organizing as a group, plan to meet in the future, and hope to arrange a site visit with Dufferin to see where the extension of the quarry and buffer lands are.

Sarah Lowe, Dufferin Aggregates property resources manager, said the company has bought 80 hectares to extend its quarry along with an additional 160 hectares to act as a buffer.

She said Dufferin plans to file its application for the extension in the next three to five months.

Amendments to the Niagara Escarpment Plan as well as Halton

**"We want to work with them to minimize as much as possible the damage to the environment, property values, lifestyles and our living condition."**

**MARION MCMEEKEN**

Region, Halton Hills and Milton official plans, and a licence under the Aggregate Resources Act would be required.

"We want to work with them to minimize as much as possible the damage to the environment, property values, lifestyles and our living conditions," said Ms McMeeken.

She added residents are also concerned about the impact the quarry will have on their water quality and quantity. She added many of the quarry's neighbors have lived there for years.

"We think our input should count for something," she said.

Ms Lowe said most of the people who signed the petition are 1.5 km away from the future extension area and three residences, two on Sixth Line and one on Townline Road actually abut the quarry extension.

"We understand their concerns and that is why we met with them," said Ms Lowe of a meeting with some concerned residents in May.

Ms Lowe said Dufferin Aggregates will not change its haul route, and that trucks won't be using No. 15 Sideroad or Sixth Line. "What you see is the final piece of the land that's available for licencing," said Ms Lowe when asked about future expansion plans.

Ms Lowe said Dufferin plans to begin extracting from the new quarry area in about eight years, when they estimate the current quarry will be depleted of resources. The additional quarry lands should be operational for about 10 to 12 years.

She said Dufferin would be pleased to provide residents with a site tour.

## Dufferin shells out big funds for environmental rehabilitation

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

Over the years, the aggregate industry has taken a blasting with environmentalists.

But lately industry leaders have been cleaning up their image with elaborate rehabilitation plans for worked-out pits and quarries.

Extensive rehabilitation efforts are well underway on the 467-hectare Dufferin Aggregates, which sprawls across both Milton and Halton Hills.

It's bringing nature back into worked-out areas, including turkey vultures and swallows.

Overall, about 231 plant species and 34 bird species are thought to be nesting in the newly-naturalized areas.

Deer and foxes have been seen scampering through the cliffs, lakes, ponds, marshes and foliage of the repaired land.

The Bruce Trail even winds through a portion of it.

### Has received many awards

Overall, Dufferin spends about \$300,000 a year on cleaning up its site, and has won about 30 awards for its efforts.

In jarring contrast to this example of nature in first bloom, Dufferin's active quarry has been busy producing 40,000 tonnes of aggregate a day.

That's its share of the more than seven million tonnes of sand, gravel and crushed stone coaxed out of Milton earth in 1999.

The demand is high. A booming market in both housing and road building has created the need for about 155 million tonnes of aggregate in Ontario alone.

But the industry has also been actively cleaning up its image, partly through the 1997 formation of the Ontario Aggregate Resources Corporation (TOARC).

TOARC president David Sterrett appeared before town council September 18 to provide an update on the industry's rehab efforts, as well as present the Town with a \$307,000 cheque.

That represents a four cents per tonne fee which TOARC charges aggregate producers and then turns over to municipalities. The hefty check is indicative of the amount of work that takes place in Milton, the largest aggregate producing town in the province.

A prime aim of TOARC, which is a partnership between the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Aggregate Producers Association of Ontario, is to collect a trust from aggregate revenues.

"TOARC was to do certain things the Ministry of Natural Resources had previously done," said Mr. Sterrett. "These services, once delivered in the province, are not costing the taxpayers money."

Money from the trust is largely used to rehabilitate abandoned pits and quarries. It has also been active in revoking the licences of producers who don't budget for quarry rehabilitation, which has been mandatory under the Aggregate Resources Act since 1990.

Since TOARC formed, 34 licences have been revoked, and a dozen or so more are under notice, said Mr. Sterrett.

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