

CH has agreed to manage water at Dufferin quarries

In close vote, CH board of directors gives thumbs up to water management agreement

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Conservation Halton voted Thursday to become the long-term water manager of Dufferin Aggregates' current and proposed quarries on the Milton/Halton Hills border.

This came despite the best efforts of a handful of Halton residents and organizations at the board of directors meeting, who oppose Dufferin's proposed quarry extension in Milton and don't want Conservation Halton (CH) to become Dufferin's partner in the project.

CH's assistance was sought by the towns of Milton and Halton Hills, Halton Region and the Niagara Escarpment Commission. One of their conditions regarding

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.....
BARBARA HALSALL

the expansion of Dufferin's quarry was that the water management system be assumed by CH for its long-term operation.

The expansion proposal will be brought before the Region, the lead decision-maker in the issue, at a public meeting June 11. It will start at 7 p.m. and will be held at the Region's headquarters on Bronte Road in Oakville.

Barbara Halsall, president of Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER), expressed her disappointment about the evening's outcome as she left the meeting, held at the CH administration office in Burlington. She didn't think CH should enter into an agreement with Dufferin.

"The environment is going to lose," Ms Halsall said, adding that there's no assurances everything will go as planned with the quarry extension, extraction and eventual rehabilitation of the site.

Dufferin hopes to add 82 hectares to its current 486-hectare

quarry, which would extend the quarry's life span to about 20 years. It would otherwise be finished in about five years.

The main and north quarries are located off Dublin Line between Sixth Line and Tremaine Road, just north of No. 5 Sideroad. The proposed extension is to the immediate northeast of the north quarry.

If the expansion is approved, CH will be responsible for the long-term water management of Dufferin's main Milton quarry and proposed extension quarry. CH will also partner with the Region and Dufferin for the on-going management, monitoring and implementation of Dufferin's proposed Adaptive Management Plan (AMP).

Protecting the public from financial liability is something that was spoken about extensively. According to Ray Guther, manager of watershed engineering services for CH, "There are a number of safeguards built into the agreement to protect the public from financial liability."

Milton resident Stephen Clairman was another of the evening's delegates. He said the boundaries of CH's agreement were too limited.

"(The agreement) deals solely with the water management sys-

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