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# Changes provide more public access to quarry, pit proposals

*Plans for potential projects to be made available on Web site*

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**

*The Champion*

The Region has refined its aggregate review protocol to increase public awareness of quarry or pit proposals.

Changes regional council endorsed Wednesday to the protocol will help keep residents up to date on aggregate applications through a variety of measures.

A report from Commissioner of Planning and Public Works Peter Crockett said those who put forward proposals are now asked to make their documentation available on a Web site that links to government agency sites with information related to the

potential pit or quarry.

The updated protocol also states that a public information meeting should be held to publicize preliminary proposal information, identify issues and explain the review and approval process.

This session will be hosted by the Joint Agency Review Teams (JART), which is the group of agencies that reviews aggregate applications, such as the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Region.

"I totally support staff on this," Regional Chair Joyce Savoline said of the new protocol. "I think Halton has set a standard that other municipalities will have to meet. We've wrote the book on this."

Among the other refinements, as outlined by Mr. Crockett, is a stipulation that the pit or quarry developer provide JART with an overview of the proposal, a work program with milestones and timelines and detailed terms of reference for the major technical studies that support the application.

The first aggregate proposal that will be put through the revised protocol is the Nelson Aggregates Burlington quarry expansion.

Burlington and Regional Councillor John Taylor told council the expansion application was officially filed last Tuesday and requested that staff organize a pre-consultation meeting within the next month.

The original review protocol was adopted by regional council in 2001. It was used to evaluate applications for Dufferin Aggregates' Milton quarry and Hanson Brick's Burlington location. The updated protocol will also be sent to the Niagara Escarpment Commission, conservation authorities in Halton and municipalities in the Region for endorsement.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at [mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com](mailto:mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com).

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- \* Talk to Town staff and equipment operators.

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Develop positive self-esteem through fun and interactive activities, events, sports, guest speakers and discussions. (Starts October 26)

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