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Other side heard yesterday

• from DUFFERIN on page 2

Since the Region and Conservation Halton (CH) have been heavily involved in developing the AMP, which the Region will oversee, both are participating in the hearing.

"The Region and Conservation Halton spent several years negotiating the details of the AMP with Dufferin and their consultants," said Stan Floras, the lawyer representing both agencies. "Participation in this hearing was necessary to properly reflect the time, effort and commitment that both agencies devoted to the preparation of the AMP."

He explained that through the AMP, the Region and CH plan to monitor the impact of the quarry and assess whether the proposed water management system is effective in protecting the surrounding environmental and ecological features. Both parties want the AMP included as a condition to the

licence.

"The AMP includes what is described as the ultimate safe-guard, and that is the commitment by Dufferin to cease extraction in the event that the AMP is not effective in raising groundwater levels above target."

He added that through a water management agreement, CH will eventually become the owner of the water management system at the Milton quarry, along with Dufferin lands and lakes when the quarry rehabilitation is complete and lakes filled.

Mr. Kahn pointed out that, "From an environmental perspective, the rehabilitated quarry will be a significant asset that will be available to the public. The lakes and ultimate public ownership of the land create a large, green recreational asset within the GTA."

Since the existing Milton quarry is expected to be mined out by 2007, Mr. Kahn said timing is

becoming critical.

"Dufferin needs the extension to meet demand for crushed stone in the GTA," he said, noting that 30 to 40 per cent of crushed stone production in the GTA comes from the local quarry.

"Additional reserves must be brought on stream to provide a continuous supply from this location to meet demand and supply customer needs."

At press time yesterday, the joint board was hearing the final argument from Joseph Castrilli, the lawyer representing CONE and POWER.

The hearing continues Monday and Tuesday in Milton council chambers. After the hearing, the board will make its decision, which Dufferin hopes will happen before the end of the year.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com.

Public asked to call police with info

• from POLICE on page 1

She told me 'See you around 1 p.m."," Ms Stokes said.

At about 5 p.m. she said she started getting worried.

"I thought, maybe she's at a friend's, she'll call... but there was no call."

Ms Stokes said she believes Courtney decided to leave with the other girls, who were perhaps planning to visit Hamilton.

"I know Courtney — she was easily influenced," Ms Stokes said.

She added she doesn't think Courtney intended to run away.

"That's very out of character because she's very close to her mom," she said.

As for Ms Cruickshanks, she said she wishes the disappearance

had been made public sooner. For the past month she's been putting up posters bearing Courtney's picture, and has been trying to get the story released in the media.

She hasn't been able to work, she said, and can't stand to look at Courtney's photos around the house.

"If I thought it was in her, it wouldn't hurt as much. But it's not in her to willfully run away," Ms Cruickshanks said.

Courtney is described as fivefoot-six, 120 pounds, with shoulder-length blonde her, blue eyes and a tanned complexion.

She was last seen wearing black pants, a Nike t-shirt, white and pink running shoes and a backpack.

Melissa, whose family didn't

wish to speak to The Champion, is described as five-foot-six, 131 pounds, with her brown hair in a ponytail and hair extensions past her shoulders.

She has hazel eyes and a medium complexion and was last seen wearing a black tank top, black capri pants and white Nike running shoes with black laces.

Halton Regional Police is asking anyone with information concerning the missing girls to contact police at (905) 878-5511, ext. 2415, or Crime Stoppers of Halton at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncana-dianchampion.com.

