

# Group forms to trash quarry dump proposal

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By NORMAN NELSON

A group has been formed to oppose Dufferin Aggregate's proposal to turn its 1,300 acre Milton quarry into a 30-million tonne landfill.

A recent meeting in Milton drew approximately 100 people from which a steering committee was formed, chaired by former Halton Hills regional councillor Pam Sheldon, to draw up a game plan.

"I venture to say that if the proposal goes ahead, the group will encompass the entire town of Milton," said Mrs. Sheldon.

"As soon as we have a clearer sense of what we're dealing with, we'll hold a further public meeting."

One of the group's two major questions should be cleared up today when the proposal comes before regional council.

Dufferin Aggregates has emphatically stated that it will not proceed without municipal backing.

The new and as yet unnamed group wants regional council to give Dufferin an equally emphatic "thanks; but no thanks" — something that didn't happen at last week's planning and public works committee meeting.

Instead, committee members kept the idea alive by simply voting to receive and file the proposal. Councillors from Milton and Halton Hills had unsuccessfully sought to have it categorically dismissed.

## Sneaking suspicion

Even if regional council rejects the landfill proposal at today's meeting, however, there is still another matter worrying the new group.

Mrs. Sheldon has a sneaking suspicion the Dufferin quarry site is somehow tied into an initiative called SWISC, which is a Greater Toronto Area undertaking designed to resolve the mounting garbage disposal crisis.

SWISC (Solid Waste Interim

Steering Committee) is mulling over approximately 70 proposals from private and government organizations designed to ease the area's garbage crises.

Mrs. Sheldon told councillors she had heard that at least two other companies have submitted proposals to SWISC involving the Dufferin quarry.

## 'Turned down flat'

If they did, however, a high-ranking corporate official of Dufferin Aggregates' parent company said it's news to him. While other concerns had approached Dufferin about

using the quarry as part of their own proposals, they were "turned down flat," said Bill Townsend, senior vice-president of St. Lawrence Cement.

St. Lawrence Cement, nevertheless, has its own two-pronged proposal before SWISC — one involving an energy from waste plant in Mississauga, and the other a wide-ranging plan involving nine company quarries, including its Milton site.

Mr. Townsend conceded that no other company site has been as closely scrutinized as the Milton quarry, with more than \$600,000 being spent on initial tests confirming its suitability.

In her address to the committee, Mrs. Sheldon listed four major reasons why the new Milton group opposes the Dufferin Quarry proposal:

- It's not safe to locate a landfill above the wells from which Milton draws its water;

- The quality of life would suffer with dust, noise, decreased land values, increased traffic and an influx of rodents and seagulls.

- It's not fair for a Milton site to be saddled with Toronto's garbage when Halton Region currently recycles 23 per cent while Metro Toronto recycles four per cent.

• It's "unbelievable" that proposals are being put forward to turn the Dufferin Quarry and an Acton quarry into huge landfills when the escarpment, last week, was named a United Nations nature reserve.

"We wonder if the Niagara Escarpment would have still received this designation as a biosphere reserve if the United Nations had been privy to

these proposals," she said.

## Bear the brunt

"Our taxpayers have already had to bear the brunt of the enormous expense of finding our own landfill site for our own needs as well as opposing the Acton quarry landfill site proposal," she told committee members.

"Surely we do not want to incur the enormous expense, once again, of even considering such a proposal."

Dufferin is estimating that between 10 and 20 million tonnes of the 30-tonne dump could be set aside for GTA garbage, generating revenues of between \$500 million and \$1 billion to be shared by the company and the host municipalities.



Pam Sheldon



Photo by KRISTA GLADISH

## Just ducky

Don Beamish of Ducks Unlimited helps out with preparations for a fundraising auction held at the Optimist Centre Thursday night. The auction was part of the organization's annual dinner banquet.

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