

Bulletin #6, January 2012

MCCORMICK PIT LICENCE APPLICATION TO THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES (MNR) LAPSES ON FEBRUARY 4TH.

On file at the MNR there are 8 agency Letters of Objection to the Blueland Farms proposal. These include letters from the MNR, Town of Caledon, the Region of Peel, CVC and the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Fifty four most excellent Letters of Objection have been sent by property owners as well as a number of petitions. All Objections require a response that must be received at least 20 days before the expiration date in order to allow time that is mandated for further comment from objectors. No such responses have been made.

The proponent has never approached the Town to apply for necessary amendments to the Official Plan.

We are advised that when the present application lapses the proponent will have to start all over again.

WHAT NOW?

This gives REDC a breather before the next phase of this application process is revealed – and we are sure there will be another phase.

A 3800 acre corridor of licenced pits runs from Kennedy Road in Caledon Village to the Town border at Winston Churchill Blvd. Gravel interests have acquired farmland amounting to a bit more than 200 acres at the Caledon Village end of this corridor and about 600 acres at the Belfountain end.



WE ANTICIPATE THERE WILL BE NEW ATTEMPTS TO EXPAND THE 3800 ACRE CORRIDOR THROUGH AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING LICENCES OR PROPOSALS FOR NEW LICENCES.

In preparation for dealing proactively with the next wave of aggregate applications – wherever and whenever that happens to be – REDC has commissioned a new project.

REDC ECOLOGICAL MAP PROJECT

IS THERE A POINT WHERE THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF PROGRESSIVELY LARGER INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS THREATENS THE ENVIRONMENT THAT WE LIVE IN?

Caledon contains the "largest series of gravel pits in North America". Before we continue adding acreage to super-sized mega-developments, the question of size and cumulative effect needs to be studied.

REDC is raising funds for an ecological study of the area which will consolidate existing data and will further our knowledge about the impact of aggregate extraction on an extremely sensitive & environmentally threatened Ecosystem. Remarkably, such a holistic picture does not currently exist, although some of the building blocks for it do. Please add your support to this effort.

Only by developing such a picture can we properly define what is at stake for our environmental heritage. Only in this way can we establish a scientific basis for predicting the foreseeable impact of expanded mining operations in this area. We hope that the REDC EMAP project will give us a greater understanding of the significance of the interdependency of life forms in our four sub-watersheds.

This spring our fundraising concert program returns with two terrific bands in two events. First up is the unique sound of Indigo Riff. Please mark your calendar. Support the EMAP project. Support the environment and have a great time doing it.



INDIGO RIFF

... a sophisticated fusion of sassy bluesy jazz
with a Latin twist....

7:30 PM FRIDAY MARCH 2, 2012

THE DEVIL'S PULPIT GOLF CLUB

3035 ESCARPMENT SIDEROAD (AT HWY 10)

CALEDON

Ticket: \$50.00 includes appetizers

For ticket information: Call 519 927 3376

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH OUR WATER?

Many of us were unaware that the search for a new water supply for Alton Village has exposed a threat to Caledon Village municipal wells.

A Report for the Source Protection Committee for Credit Valley reveals a 50 acre area around a major municipal well in Caledon Village has been adversely affected by gravel extraction.

The result is the *total removal of the soil layer that protects the gravel/sand aquifer* lying below the mass of gravel being mined. This has led to an *increased threat to the quality of drinking water in a key municipal well*. The aquifer from which Caledon Village draws its water is exposed and potentially open to contamination. **"...the vulnerability rating within the area of the gravel pits was increased from medium to high."** (Draft Proposed Updated Assessment Report, Credit Valley Source Protection Area. June 2011)

Because most municipal wells in and around Caledon Village are ground water dependent they also are susceptible to contamination.

There are plans to drill for a new municipal well. There is no plan at the moment to protect the aquifer from continued damage. Old school thinking takes a narrow view of the risk and looks for technical rather than ecological solutions: filtration will be an adequate solution, we are told.

One existing well on Hwy 10 has been investigated and targeted for expansion. Consultants have identified two other possible sites on Kennedy and Heart Lake Roads for further investigation. The "science" available from 1991 indicates that the Kennedy site is a gusher ready for further investigation but "gravel issues" appear to be in the way. The site identified on Heart Lake Road near the former McCormick Farm has similar "gravel issues".

Our efforts to discover why "gravel issues" stand in the way of the Kennedy Rd site have met with deflative language that frustrates us. We are confused by contradictory information between reports and official documents. MNR has advised us that agreements and reports we have reviewed - about future extraction of gravel deposits under Kennedy Road to the level of existing gravel pits in the area - would not be supported by current licence agreements.

This is the time for a dialogue with the community that is consultative to offset the perceived belief of many that "information" meetings are the tail end of a process to which they have had no input.

To contribute financially, as a volunteer, or by donating services:

Contact REDC at info@peopleforcaledon.com

Please address cheques to REDC Inc.

Mail to REDC Inc. Att: Treasurer, 17895 Heart Lake Road, Caledon Ontario L7K 2A3

Please be assured your e-mail information or mailing information will not be shared and will be used solely to update you on REDC activities that involve the McCormick Pit licence application. Thank you for your support of our common interest in our natural heritage and opposition to the McCormick Pit. If you wish to have your name removed from the update list please send your request to responsible_caledon@hotmail.com