



Bulletin #12, January 2013

Aggregate Corridor Update- what's happening with the McCormick Pit proposal?

Last September, REDC Bulletin #10 reported that on July 12, BlueLand Farms attended a scheduled Town of Caledon DART (Development Application Review Team) Meeting to review multi-agency responses to documents previously submitted by the developer in support of a preliminary proposal. All DART requirements must be met prior to requests for Official Plan and by-law amendments and the DART meeting initiates a designated period during which these conditions are to be fulfilled. BlueLand's documentation was lacking some data

required by DART. BlueLand furnished this data in August. Early this January BlueLand asked that, based on the date of the delivery of this material, the deadline be extended. Planning has confirmed a one month extension which will not be renewed.

At this time the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has not received another proposal to mine the McCormick Farm. The original 2010 BlueLand Farms licence application lapsed in early 2012 and the proposal and its supporting documents were returned to the proponent by MNR.

In the meantime the REDC Strategy and Research committee is working with an environmental firm retained to analyze data from the four subwatersheds that surround the Caledon Village-Belfountain aggregate corridor.

What's happening with other groups?

Community activism on aggregate issues was a mixed bag last year although there is room for guarded optimism.

- The massive Melancthon Quarry proposal was withdrawn by its proponent when it was threatened with the unusual scrutiny of an Ontario Environmental Review. The Nelson Quarry proposal in Burlington was challenged successfully by PERL (Protecting Escarpment Rural Land) and the City of Burlington working together to drive home the environmental case against the proposal with the endangered Jefferson Salamander as the star witness.
- As yet the courts in Ontario have not tackled aggregate issues. Courts set precedents: tribunals do not. Here aggregate development remains firmly in the arena of regulatory agencies like the OMB and ERB although some multinationals are taking the rebuffs to their expansion plans to higher courts that deal with free trade matters.

- In Quebec, whose legal system differs from the rest of Canada, the courts are examining whether wetlands, once destroyed, must be replaced by land of equivalent ecological value and biodiversity. Although not precedent setting for the rest of Canada, legal discussions of these issues shine a light on common concerns.
- In Collingwood the Walker Quarry licence was approved against the strong objections of one member of the 3 person Board that approved the application and against the opposition of the Clearview Community Coalition (CCC) as well as the policies and objections of the Niagara Escarpment Commission. NEC applied for and was granted a judicial review of the decision: the hearing is set for April 25th at the Divisional Court in Toronto: this will be a precedent setting decision. The Town of Collingwood is in support of the Quarry licence and is on record against the judicial review. At stake is the value and primacy of the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

More about - Alton: Water first or water last: where is OPA 226 headed?

Concerns raised by Alton area citizens, reported in Bulletin 11 [November 2012], over Orangeville's wastewater management practices persist.

In varying degrees planners in both Caledon and Orangeville appear inclined to consider waste and storm water management in a limited ecological context. At a watershed level this approach fails to address simultaneously, the adequacy and quality of drinking water, the impacts and contributions of anticipated land use changes, population growth and warnings from Ontario's Environment Commissioner alerting us to the change in Ontario's climate.

These planning elements need to be considered in a comprehensive ecological framework. Everything affects everything else in the environment and for planners to consider one aspect of an ecosystem without attending to all others appears to fall short of emerging best practice in this area. These concerns become sharply focused when we consider the adequacy of future water supply and the waste water management capacity of communities like Alton and Caledon Village.

The technicalities of these matters make it difficult for residents to evaluate what is being done or not done to protect our health but one thing that non-experts can attest to is the need for all relevant considerations to be addressed in a single, comprehensive planning framework. If this is not done, adding more sophisticated monitoring capacity and instituting best practices in municipal well management will do little to ease concerns on these fundamental issues.

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

Details for 2013 REDC fundraising events are pending: In the meantime **REDC Coffee** specially blended by Barocco Coffee of Mississauga is available at the above address at \$15 per pound.

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. 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 admin@peopleforcaledon.com