

Bulletin #19 Summer 2014



Aggregate Mergers 2014

In January the James Dick Group sold all its ready mix plants to Lafarge. Lafarge agreed to operate these 8 plants under the James Dick brand.

In April two of the world's largest multinational aggregate producers - Lafarge and Holcim - formally began their 'merger of equals'.

Holcim operates under a number of brands in Canada under the Holcim name, Dufferin Aggregates, Dufferin Construction, and Mississauga Cement among others.

St Marys Cement, the other big aggregate company in Ontario, remains unaffected by these activities as it is a subsidiary of multinational Votorantim Cimentos.

Is there room for interpretation in the Provincial Policy Statement 2014?

The new Ontario PPS continues to draw a lot of fire from many activist groups. Nevertheless some sources feel that there is considerable room for flexible interpretations of the changes found in PPS 2014. [Read June 2014 PPS Comment per lawyers Mcmillan LLP](#) for a legal opinion.

Not much clarity here

There's been little in the last few years to relieve the confusion about how controversial industrial developments impact surrounding property values.

In April 2013 the Ontario Superior Court ruled that Clearview Township landowners who were suing Canada Corp. - a wind energy company proposing an 8 turbine project - had suffered losses in property value in anticipation of the wind project but that the claims could not be brought forward against the company until the project was approved. [Wellington Advertiser news story](#)

This year in April a major [study released by MPAC of the impact of industrial wind turbines on surrounding property values](#) showed no significant statistical losses. Current values have remained consistent with those in 2008.

Property owners who had hoped that this MPAC wind turbine study would give them some clue what a similar aggregate study might reveal about losses to the value of nearby properties are out of luck. No definitive direction is available until MPAC runs a major investigation.

Hidden Quarry Meeting with the Concerned Residents Coalition in Rockwood

On May 18, REDC reps audited a CRC sponsored community meeting with residents and Greg Sweetnam representing James Dick Construction, the company that's proposing a new quarry in Rockwood. Mr Sweetnam made some interesting points. He emphasized government support for

aggregate development close to markets and declared that aggregate is a public resource and communities do not have a right to withhold it.

There were questions about haulage routes since the nearest market for aggregate is Guelph and those routes would be very intrusive, taking truck traffic through much of residential Rockwood. Mr Sweetnam assured residents that aggregate products from the Hidden Quarry would not find their way to Guelph markets even though they are closest. Instead they would be sent to Golden Horseshoe markets which are distant but more lucrative for the company.

For some of those present this reading of what is meant by “close to market” exposes a loop hole in a policy that most people believe is the environmental rationale for allowing extraction in otherwise sensitive or protected areas. This interpretation of ‘close to market’ prevents communities from protecting themselves from environmental and social harm while allowing producers to travel however far from their mines to make the largest profit.

The meeting ended on a cautionary note from Mr Sweetnam, "With all due respect to this citizens group I would like to tell you about Rockford Quarry. The citizens group over 13 years spent \$1,825,000 and the town spent over \$4,000,000 dollars and what did they get.. NOTHING."

Caledon's Coalition of Concerned Citizens who successfully challenged the Quarry saved the environment that they fought for. Mr Sweetnam did not reveal the cost of the battle for the company or the court costs that were applicable.

The Loonie Toonie Garage Sale & BBQ -a success in spite of the weather!

Our volunteers - young and seasoned alike - did us proud working tirelessly under less than perfect weather conditions. The off and on drizzle didn't keep the patrons away either. New this year were Cara's beignets - a huge success with more surprises promised for next year. Thanks also to the volunteers who worked many long hours behind the scenes in the weeks leading up to the sale.

And thank you dear donors for your kindness and generosity. Our net profits exceeded those of last year when the weather was perfect! What a pleasant surprise!

Thanks to our host Caledon Hills Honey for making us so welcome, to the Jones family for covering the cost of our mailing, to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Orangeville Ward, for lending their tables to exhibit the many items donated by residents, and to supporters who came forward with cash donations!

REDC bulletin and brochure supplies ran out as the day progressed but we hope that newbies to REDC will sign up online for regular delivery of the bulletin and other e-blast notices. An updated brochure is in the works.

Reminder: REDC Headquarters (Caledon Hills Honey) is the Caledon Food and Water First Sign Depot

Contact REDC at info@peopleforcaledon.com

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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 info@peopleforcaledon.com