

Bulletin #20 Fall 2014



Greenbelt Blues

The Greenbelt Plan review is due in 2015. Many municipalities are getting a jump on the process by hosting local public meetings this year.

In a recent Town of Caledon sponsored meeting, residents viewed Greenbelt maps that were seriously out of date. Natural heritage features that have been identified on more current maps as well as those that have been reassessed and excluded need to be part of the discussions.

Many natural heritage features have been updated by MNR [Ministry of Natural Resources] and CVC [Credit Valley Conservation Authority] since these Greenbelt maps were produced. This is information available to

Town officials as Caledon is one of the stakeholders in the current CVC Natural Heritage System Study and has representation on the committee which is reviewing the CVC draft.

This is information that should be shared with residents. Citizens participating in the Greenbelt review should *also* be party to the new wetland revelations so they can participate as knowledgeable partners in this important Greenbelt planning exercise which will affect a significant part of Ontario.

With so many stakeholder interests being represented such as foodbelt and aggregate-belt and many others, let's not lose sight of the legitimacy of protecting and promoting biodiversity.

Snoozing with one eye open...

Even when you're having a good time aggregate issues dog your steps. On a recent Headwaters charity house tour participants were greeted with brochures that highlighted efforts by Protect Mono to challenge an upcoming pit near Violet Hill in north Mono. Local activist groups are taking every opportunity to reach out and connect with one another and we take the opportunity to fill them in on the aggregate-belt doings in Caledon.

Most know that CAMP, the Caledon group opposing the Melville Pit at the Orangeville townline, has been forced to take their fight to the OMB. The good news is that Councillor Doug Beffort stood with the community in his conviction that essential water testing had been omitted and was the lone hold out in council's vote to grant OP amendments that brought Olympia Sand and Gravel an important step closer to obtaining its licence to mine. The Ward 1 Councillor has worked diligently for the past few years to increase his knowledge of hydrogeology and aggregate issues, actively pursuing independent expert advice. We hope this is the beginning of a trend. After all - the Puslinch mayor David Lever started his career at the front of a movement that blocked the Aikensville Pit. Today he heads the Ontario mayors' organization TAPMO [Top Aggregate Producing Municipalities in Ontario].

And what about the proposed McCormick Pit? The McCormick Farm is still operating – as a farm. There’s still a sign advising of the proponent Blueland Farms request of the Town for OP exemptions so that it can apply for a licence to mine aggregate. REDC has been advised that MNR has received the proposal which it will not process until Caledon has dealt with the request before it. We’ve studied the current proposal thoroughly and remain alert to any changes.

Was it something we said?

When Blueland returned with a new proposal and studies supporting its request for OP amendments in 2013, REDC asked that they be posted on the Town website. The planner processing the file at the time arranged to have that done. Shortly afterwards, the division reviewing development applications was divided into two sectors. Currently there is less ease in accessing information.

We’ve been told that the proponent has notified that new studies are being considered.

The Head of Planning and Development has advised us that there is no reason that these updates should not appear online. So far no changes have been posted. REDC has learned that a new agent has replaced the one named in the current documents. We have asked that more substantive updates – particularly any new studies by the proponent – will be posted as they come in.



YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Ontario municipal elections are in full swing at the moment. As we get ready to vote, this excerpt from Ethics in Municipal Government by Kevin Feehan Q.C. LL.B sets the scene:

“Effective municipal governance requires that the public have confidence in the integrity and trustworthiness of its elected officials. The fiduciary duty of good faith, the duty of due diligence and the duty to act fairly, free from any conflicts of interest provide a structure to which councillors should conduct themselves to ensure values of transparency, honesty and accountability inform how they perform their public duties.”

Reminders

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

REDC’s new updated [brochure is available online](#).

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. 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