

Bulletin #15 September 2013- the end of summer issue

The Cheltenham Story - On Bricks and Fill

Cheltenham residents breathed a sigh of relief this summer when the infilling issue at the Brampton Brick Ltd Cheltenham Pit was resolved. The Town saw much merit in the case that BBL presented to import massive amounts of fill to eliminate a pond produced by aggregate excavation. As a commenting agency the Town voted for the proposal. But the property is under the Niagara Escarpment Plan [NEP] and the Niagara Escarpment Commission [the granting agency] rejected the application. **The Residents Association full report is in the current Caledon Spectrum P. 25.**



McCormick Pit update

Blueland Farms [BF] is asking for amendments to Caledon's OPA and relevant by-laws as one of the steps in obtaining a licence from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The documentation supporting the request is an amended version of the licence proposal originally sent to MNR in 2010. The documents have been sent out for comment to appropriate agencies such as the Niagara Escarpment Commission [NEC] and CVC.

[The BF file is now held by Planner Brandon Ward to whom your letters of objection should be sent.](#)

REDC's observations are on [the McCormick Pit page of our website.](#)

Just because it hasn't been mapped, doesn't mean it isn't there.

This summer we've been studying the BF proposal alongside the REDC EMAP, our research study. Documentation of natural heritage features on the McCormick property has undergone changes over the years - from no wetlands on maps 20 years ago to Provincially Significant wetlands mapped by MNR last fall. In addition MNR has confirmed that these wetlands are part of a Wetland Complex linked to and interdependent on yet another Wetland Complex.

In 2010 BF reported no frogs on the property which was a surprise to visitors and residents who were overwhelmed by nightly frog choruses and to drivers dodging frogs hopping across the road. Although the new proposal contains updates, it still isn't inline with independent ecologists' reports.

Unfortunately the agencies we depend on for solid information are hurting. Inspectors monitoring compliance now visit once every 5-7 years. Expect further delays. MNR is having its budget slashed by \$30 million over three years, \$10 million per year from 2012 to 2014.

This means reductions in numbers of frontline staff who do compliance work and those who map natural features including features that are on the endangered species list. Land, water, fish, wildlife and heritage features are at risk. More compliance reporting will be left to operators. [Read more>](#)

[Private Member's Bill 56 - Aggregate Recycling Promotion Act](#)

As a conservation measure, Dufferin-Peel MPP Sylvia Jones has introduced Bill56 to stop restrictions on the use of recycled aggregate in public sector construction and has asked for public comments before it's debated in parliament. REDC supports the use of recycled aggregates for construction purposes in principle. It would reduce the need for virgin aggregate and so reduce the environmental load which is currently caused by the opening of new pits and quarries. However we have concerns that recycling aggregate is an activity that potentially has health risks for people and is a risky business environmentally. [REDC's submission is on the People for Caledon website.](#)

The Verdict is in: Three groups - three results

Without a coherent body of precedent setting law coming from the courts on aggregate issues, it's hard to make a calculated guess on how regulatory bodies will deal with any one pit or quarry proposal. This summer:

The Flamborough Quarry licence was abandoned after years of wrangling between FORCE, a community group, and St Mary's Cement - a process which had included a Ministerial Order and an Appeal. In July a Conservation Covenant which prohibits aggregate extraction was placed on the property as well as on the adjacent expansion lands.

In West Montrose, near Elmira, the residents association ran such an amazing and persistent campaign that this August, Capital Paving abandoned its attempt to amend local bylaws and the Official Plan to pave the way for a below the water aggregate licence. Wetlands and a historic covered bridge were saved for Ontario citizens.

At the Ontario Divisional Court, NEC lost its case to protect the NE Plan against the Walker Quarry proposal in Duntroon [Collingwood]. The court upheld the joint OMB/ERB decision in favour of the aggregate developer and decided that in this case the NEP did not trump the provisions of the Provincial Policy Statement. Does this leave the legal status of the NEP on shaky ground?



People for Caledon

It's been more than a year since REDC took the leap and officially launched our website www.PeopleforCaledon.com

As it is volunteer operated, this has been a sharp learning curve. The website has recently been updated to reflect the new Blueland Farms proposal. Thank you for your support and e-mails. We're very gratified at the length of the average visit. Thank you for your many excellent photos.

Donations of all kinds are most welcome.

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. 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