

Bulletin #4, July 2011

**LILY FROST'S BENEFIT CONCERT FOR REDC** *Snap Caledon reported that* "Guests were captivated and left breathless during a concert by singer/songwriter Lily Frost and partner José Contreras of By Divine Right at Claude Presbyterian Church. The sanctuary was the perfect backdrop for the dulcet harmonies and wistful lyrics. The opening act was popular local Appalachian style string band Cat Gut, Hog Hide & the Skinner. The concert was held to benefit REDC (People for Responsible Escarpment Development Caledon Inc.) - a local group poised to fight the proposed McCormick Pit. The McCormick Pit is a 100 acre site that abuts a 3378 acre industrial complex of pits and quarries surrounding the Caledon Village area. Scotiabank matched the tickets sales of this wonderful concert."

Thanks to you all - performers, Scotiabank, Claude Church congregants, supporters, neighbours, donors, and volunteers - REDC has had a very successful fundraiser.

***So Far***

***....an environmental lawyer***

Early this year REDC retained the services of an environmental lawyer who has had considerable experience and success with aggregate issues.

***....a hydrogeologist***

We have the services of a highly respected hydrogeologist who has reviewed all available documentation and given us the green light to develop our strategy.

***....understanding procedures***

A workshop with Town Planners gave us an insight into the process an aggregate licence application passes through before it meets its fate at the Ministry of Natural Resources or the OMB.

Each pit and quarry licence application that is before the MNR is reviewed on its own merits,

much like any kind of licence application. To challenge the McCormick Pit proposal, REDC is hiring experts to prepare reports specific to our situation that will support our case.

***....incorporation***

More recently REDC incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation assisted by the estate of the late Laura Legge Q.C.

***....building a war chest***

Donations and fundraisers are building our war chest and paying our bills. There are plenty of opportunities to preview the costs we will encounter in a few years. The Clearview Community Coalition has just ended the oral phase of their OMB hearing challenging the Walker Quarry in Collingwood. Their experts have testified for 139 days over a 14 month period. Costs can easily exceed \$2000 a day.

Victorious groups tell us: Stay the course. Focus on the challenge ahead. There is no quick fix. This is a David and Goliath situation.

***....not our strategy***

Some Caledon citizens believe they can prove their properties are being devalued by proposed pits and quarries and are considering a class action based on perceived losses due to future mines.

Recent expansions of Lafarge operations along Willoughby Road have not affected property values. The Port Colborne/Inco case suggests that comparing values can be surprising and unpredictable but bad press & rumour can play a self fulfilling role.

An attempt to advance a case like this in the courts is a bold pioneering move in Canada.

REDC believes there are proven winnable strategies that we can adopt more readily.

***....staying connected***

REDC belongs to an umbrella group called GravelWatch. It consists of many citizen groups actively fighting the aggregate proposals in their areas and others hard at work to effect a change in provincial gravel policy. Energy and money are in limited supply and so we choose our battles. REDC has focused on challenging the McCormick Pit proposal.

Every day there is more evidence to support the need to protect the biodiversity of our natural habitat. "Biodiversity is the foundation of life-sustaining processes for us and all creation" Bob Morris, Chief Biologist of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, said at a recent meeting.

Species diversity in nature plays a critical role in protecting human health says Richard Ostfeld a disease ecologist at the prestigious Carey Institute of Ecosystem Studies. Dr. Ostfeld warns of the dangers of interfering with the Biodiversity of an area: "When we humans do things that erode biodiversity, we're effectively getting rid of the helpful species and favouring the nasty ones". "We can best preserve biodiversity by preserving habitat."

How many more pits can the local biosphere support?

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

**Contact REDC at [info@peopleforcaledon.com](mailto: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 in our common opposition to the McCormick Pit. If you wish to have your name removed from the update list please send you request to [admin@peopleforcaledon.com](mailto:admin@peopleforcaledon.com)