

Bulletin #5, November 2011

NO END IN SIGHT

From Caledon Village to the Town border at Winston Churchill Blvd there is a corridor of licenced quarries and pits, potential pits seeking licences, as well as properties amassed by gravel operators for which licences have not yet been applied.

*....**3800 acres!** strip mines, quarries, and below the watertable mines...*

Recent REDC research has added 400 acres to our original calculations. There are currently 3800 acres of aggregate operations from Caledon Village to Belfountain. This is far greater than the licence application for the "Mega Quarry" and it isn't a future proposal – it's in operation now.

*....**4000 acres?***

Two licence applications are pending which would add almost 200 acres to the current acreage – One is the McCormick Pit on Heart Lake Road. If these licences are granted the accumulated acreage will be 4000.

*....**4600 acres?***

On the eastern and western leading edges of the aggregate corridor, at Heart Lake Road and Shaws Creek Road respectively, another 600 acres are currently owned by aggregate operators. Should these properties be mined in the future the industrial sprawl will have a potential acreage of 4600 acres with an interruption for the Forks of the Credit Provincial Park.

- Operations within these parameters are holding on to their right to mine for aggregate. No mine currently within this boundary is asking to surrender its licence. Occasionally there are rumours that portions of these properties will be rezoned and severed for recreational use. This has not happened.
- Market forces make it good business sense to hang on to operations in an industry with rapid technological advances that can change a "not so profitable" source of gravel to "much better" very quickly. Additionally, land that is not being vigorously mined can become the "factory" for the sorting, grading and crushing of aggregate for more than one operation.
- Through individual licences and many amendments to these licences, the aggregate industry in our area has developed into an enormous complex much like a business park but has never been held up to the scrutiny that is required for "planned" development.

STATUS OF THE MCCORMICK PIT PROPOSAL

At this time there has been no change in the status of the McCormick Pit proposal. The planning department at the Town has advised REDC that in October the proponent, Blueland Farms, through a spokesperson expressed the intention to restart the pre-consultation process. There has been no further action.

Mining for aggregate remains "a proponent driven process". After years of preparation with support and advice from government agencies, aggregate proponents present local communities with a fully formed licence application and a short window of opportunity to respond. Government agencies are not as quick to help communities since under the current regulations their assistance is required by the aggregate operators in the preparation of 'sound' proposals. Local communities have to scramble to secure their own help and pay for it.

REDC remains alert to any new developments, although hopefully none over the festive season.

We have a precious natural heritage resource here in Caledon linked by natural corridors which maintain areas of delicately balanced interdependent ecosystems. Many of us are determined to protect and preserve this resource for the future. We can't turn back the clock and restore biospheres that have been already lost but neither are we prepared to be reactive, compliant or passive when new areas are being challenged. REDC is investigating proactive strategies. More about this in the new year.

On behalf of the members of the Board of Directors for People for Responsible Escarpment Development Caledon, I wish to extend to our supporters, volunteers and donors our best wishes in the upcoming holidays. We have been blessed with your good will in the past year.

Christine Shain, President, REDC Inc.

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 that involve the McCormick Pit licence application. 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