

Bulletin # 17 Winter 2014



Proposed McCormick Pit - Why's the sign still up?

If there's no formal Blueland Farms licence application at MNR and the proposal supporting OP amendments and zoning changes is stalled - residents ask REDC - why's the sign asking for amendments to the Town's OP still posted on the McCormick property on Heart Lake Road?

Town regulations required a sign to be posted when Blueland Farms applied for Official Plan amendments and zoning changes - changes that are required for a licence application to mine aggregate and permits to conduct an aggregate recycling plant on the property.

The property is in the Niagara Escarpment and the developer must first obtain amendments to the NEP - Niagara Escarpment Plan - before the Town considers his requests. Blueland has not yet approached the

Niagara Escarpment Commission [NEC].

REDC has been advised that if this file is inactive for a prolonged period of time at the Town level, the sign will remain on the McCormick Farm as long as Blueland maintains its file with the Town by paying an annual administrative fee - or withdraws its proposal.

Here's where things stand: Blueland has very recently replaced its agent of record [that's the firm that shepherds its proposal through the system]. The agent has a new consultant who will be the spokesperson for the proposal and a new planning consultant who will be the go-between with the Town's planning department. There may also be entirely new studies submitted for the proposal supporting the amendments. Yogi Berra said it best, it's déjà vu all over again!

Melville Pit

On Dec. 9 Olympia Sand and Gravel got the zoning changes and OP amendments it was asking for. That's one more step towards an MNR licence to mine aggregate on a 293 acre property between Porterfield and Willoughby at the Caledon/Orangeville border. Caledon Council voted in favour of the changes. The vote would have been unanimous but Councillor Doug Beffort was not convinced due diligence had been done and wanted more time for further comprehensive environmental tests. His motion was soundly rejected by his colleagues but the folks that filled Council chambers as well as a second ante room greeted his bold action with mighty applause and approval.

It was an odd evening. One councillor advised citizens on the futility of fighting the system and drew on the Town's defeat at OMB, years ago, over the Tim Horton location in Bolton as an object lesson for those challenging the Melville Pit today.

CAMP, Citizens against the Melville Pit, had issues with the Olympia proposal in support of the amendments and changes and retained Dr Ken Howard to review Olympia's hydrogeology report.

Based on Dr Howard's work for CAMP, member Jim Reid challenged Olympia's report and raised concerns about the cumulative effect of mining on water levels in Municipal and private wells.

CAMP, Councillor Beffort and Mark Schiller, the Risk Management Official for Peel Region and its lower tier municipalities [a position created under the provisions of the Source Protection Plans] supported the need for more tests, in particular a pump test which would determine the present velocity and volume of water currently available for consumption.

On Dec 19, Bill Blackport, the expert who peer reviewed Olympia's hydrogeology for the Town, sent [a memo relating to the CAMP deputations](#) and referenced Dr Howard's report for CAMP. Both experts agree far more than they differ in perspective. Mr. Blackport recommends more water tests also.

CAMP remains confirmed in its opposition and has regrouped and lawyered up in preparation for the next stage.

"we're doing the best for Caledon"

This is elections year. So... how's participatory democracy working out for you so far? As citizens we're doing a lot of participating. At the end of the year it will be up to you to rate how satisfied you are with your representation. Are the folks you put in that job doing what YOU see as the "the best for Caledon"?

New Truck Routes for Caledon?

Some REDC supporters have received notices about new imminent truck routes along Town roads. A map which shows a **Region of Peel Strategic Goods Movement Network** has been circulated and reference has been made to a Strategic Goods Movement Network Study (SGMNS).

Richard Paterak sits on Peel Council. With Councillor Paterak's help REDC has contacted Gary Kocialek, P. Eng., the team leader of the SGMNS group at Peel that is investigating options for new haulage routes within our Region. The current framework is a starting point that will be subject to much more input as a variety of standards and agency requirements will be applied. There will be environmental criteria and cost issues to consider, NEC will have input and there are plans for more technical studies. REDC was advised that last Spring Peel Regional Council tabled the study as it was received and it will be some time before comprehensive analysis will be applied to the data as it is updated. This is a process.

Unfortunately an overview of [the SGMNS on the Peel website](#) gives many readers the impression that this is a more binding plan of action than REDC has been advised it is. The public would be better informed if more effort is made to clarify the study's status and implications.

For more about how this document was developed [link here](#) to a paper by Gary Kocialek and his colleagues that was presented at a conference last August.

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