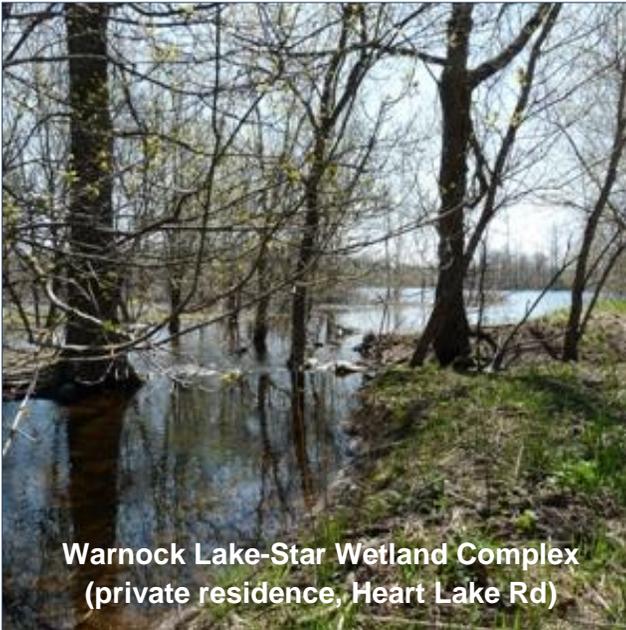


**Bulletin #18 Spring 2014**



Warnock Lake-Star Wetland Complex  
(private residence, Heart Lake Rd)

**“Is Warnock Lake being drained?”**

REDC gets this question repeatedly each year in early spring and summer. Residents who notice water being pumped under Kennedy Road, south of Caledon Central Public School or those who complain about loud incessant pumping associate their concerns with nearby aggregate operations.

Warnock Lake is a kettle lake surrounded by an extensive wetland complex through which Caledon Creek and its Caledon Village tributary flow.

Half of the lake is owned by a private resident and half is owned by an aggregate company which has a licence to extract gravel below the water table in a nearby pit – well below the level of the lake, the wetland complex and the Creek and its tributary.

Below water extraction creates pit ponds (pit lakes). In 1999 regional, municipal and environmental authorities permitted the company to build a physical barrier around Warnock Lake on the pit side in order to protect lake and wetland water levels. When this condition was met the company received its licence extension to begin aggregate extraction.

***So what’s happening now?***

Every spring and well into summer there’s a seasonal rise in water levels in the Creek as it travels through the pit pond and there’s a corresponding rise in Warnock Lake and the surrounding wetlands. The aggregate producer operates a pumping station at Kennedy Rd which lowers water levels in the pit pond.

***What are the net impacts of these industrial activities on Warnock Lake, the Star Wetland Complex and Caledon Creek?***

We urge residents who have complaints, concerns or questions to contact the Aurora District Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources at 905-713-7400 for official and definitive answers. Due to severe budget cuts MNR is restricted in its ability to monitor licenced operations but staff do respond to citizen concerns and complaints.

**Recycled Gravel Plants as Accessory Use of pits and quarries: a “good thing”?**

The Provincial Policy Statement [PPS] 2014 which came into effect this April 30 is a policy document that governs land use in Ontario. Many environmental groups are disturbed because it gives its blessing to the addition of aggregate recycling plants to pit and quarry operations without sufficient regard to how recycled construction materials are produced.

The provincial land use policy will still have to be reconciled with aggregate legislation contained in the latest version of the Aggregate Resources Act which has been under review for the past few years.

Last year Ontario Private Members Bill 56 promoted mandated use of recycled gravel on municipal roads. [REDC responded to a request for public comments](#). We urged that any legislated use of recycled aggregate include adequate protection for the environment and communities in which recycled material is to be produced and pointed out some of the hazards inherent in aggregate recycling.

Most people agree that recycling is part of being a responsible citizen. But how recycled aggregate is produced and how aggregate recycling plants affect the health of communities needs to be part of any discussion that promotes aggregate recycling plants as accessory use of operating pits.

Gravel Watch an aggregate watchdog group reports the recycling clause was inserted into the PPS after the public consultation process was closed. It asks concerned individuals and groups to write to their local MPPs to urge them to put appropriate environmental and other safeguards in place before implementing this policy. [Gravel Watch Ontario has published a news release](#) listing some of the contaminants and outlining the many risks associated with this new policy.



**WHERE?** 17895 Heart Lake Road  
Caledon Hills Honey, south of Charleston Rd  
adult admission \$2

Prize winning Barocco Coffee - available in the special REDC blend - each bag nets \$5 for REDC!

Private sellers are part of the sale. This year a special collection of sports memorabilia is being offered by a private seller containing Blue Jays programs in mint condition from 1977 on and original Kentucky Derby memorabilia gathered over 20 years.

*Garage Sale revenue supports studies of the social and environmental impact of 3800 acres of pit development from Caledon Village to Erin & helps fund experts for our current challenge to the Blueland Farms pit proposal*

**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. 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](mailto:info@peopleforcaledon.com)