

**Bulletin #23 Spring 2015**



**Efficiencies... Will they achieve better and lasting environmental protection?**

From March 25 to May12 the province is holding public meetings in locations throughout Southern Ontario as part of the “co-ordinated review” of four major provincial plans: the Niagara Escarpment Plan [NEP], the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Caledon hosted the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting which was attended by many local and out of area citizens. The Caledon Citizen reported there were about 400 participants.

Most of us expected to hear about the plans and how a “coordinated review” would work but found instead that we were expected to comment on reports which we saw for the first time at the meeting. A brief speech from the organizers touched on the importance of agriculture to the current Ontario government and then we were presented with packages of preselected and prioritized questions with spaces for our answers. The meeting was very tightly managed. It was a challenging experience.

***Every challenge is an opportunity***

Five more meetings are left in the series - open to all. If you were unable to get a copy of the reports at the meeting, as supplies ran short, you can review them on line. If you have something to say, your best bet is to send your comments to the [Environmental Registry](#) by May 28 with a copy to your MPP. This ensures that your comments are registered. [This link will help you get what you need.](#)

***Is this an amalgamation of Plans? – Will it put an end to the Niagara Escarpment Commission?***

Some participants wondered if this review was leading to a consolidation of the 4 plans. Would the review end with the dismantling of the Niagara Escarpment Commission - the only agency which is semi autonomous? NEC is made up of elected Councillors selected by municipalities within the Niagara Escarpment to represent citizen’s interests. The Commissioners decide on issues that are governed by the NEP and send their recommendations to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. The Oak Ridges Moraine Plan, the Greenbelt Plan and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe had initial public input and are all administered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

So it was encouraging to read that Ruth Greer the former Minister of the Environment and currently Board member of the Niagara Escarpment Foundation had similar concerns about the continuity of the NEC but has been assured recently that although *the dissolution of the NEC had been discussed within the ministries* it has now been ruled out.

The Commission, which has been evaluating the NEP for more than a year, voted last November that “no new aggregate operations” should be permitted within the Escarpment and will be sending this recommendation to the Minister.

## I'll see your amendment... and raise you one

Municipalities adjacent to the proposed Hidden Lake Quarry in Rockwood have been voicing their concerns over the new James Dick aggregate development. CRC, the citizen's group that is opposing the Quarry is very pleased with the response, particularly that of Halton Hills mayor Rick Bonnette. Halton Hills Council has reviewed studies that indicate that there is no need for new aggregate mines or quarries in the Escarpment as there is currently sufficient supply in existing operations for many years. Council recently passed a resolution asking the province "to amend the Provincial Policy Statement and Aggregate Resources Act to require aggregate proponents to demonstrate need for the particular supply of the resource proposed for extraction".

The current policy - which does not require producers to show a need in order to extract mineral deposits - resulted from a 2005 amendment to the Provincial Policy Statement benefitting aggregate interests.

At the Aggregate Act hearings a few years ago Mayor Bonnette was outspoken about the heavy financial costs to the community of aggregate extraction - a burden that taxpayers have to absorb.



## [JOIN US FOR A GREAT DAY FOR A GREAT CAUSE](#)

### **THE ANNUAL REDC LOONIE TOONIE GARAGE SALE & BBQ**

WHEN? SATURDAY MAY 2, 2015 - 8am to 1pm

WHERE? Caledon Hills Honey - 17895 Heart Lake Road  
just south of Charleston Road, Caledon

*Terrific bargains! Yummy baked goods! Plants for Sale!*  
adult admission \$2

The Garage Sale supports REDC's community outreach and the continuing review of the social and environmental impact of 3800 acres of pit development from Caledon Village to Erin & helps fund expert assistance as we prepare to challenge the Blueland Farms pit proposal for Heart Lake Road near Caledon Village.

## Caledon Depot for Food and Water First Signs

Getting your yard ready for the new season? The Caledon depot for Food and Water First Signs is located at REDC's headquarters, Caledon Hills Honey at 17895 Heart Lake Road. Come on by and pick one up. There's a small charge that goes back to NDACT's Food and Water First committee so it can continue its work.

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)