

## **People for Responsible Escarpment Development Caledon**

17895 Heart Lake Road, Caledon Ontario L7K 2A3

Bulletin#2 January 2011

It's been a year since Blueland Farms submitted a licence application to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) for permission to mine gravel 135 ft below ground level and 75 ft below the water table, on the 100 acre McCormick Farm, at 17736 Heart Lake Road. Blueland Farms will have to meet a number of requirements before a licence can be granted.

In August, Town of Caledon planners had a pre application consultation with representatives of Blueland Farms. The proponent was advised on what documentation they would need to provide in order to support their request for zoning by-law changes and amendments to the Town's Official Plan. The pre application consultation process is time sensitive and this period has run out as of January 28. Another consultation will have to be activated.

Recently Town Planners reviewed the Town's application process and the mandated opportunities for community input with the REDC Committee.

Due to widespread interest in the proposed McCormick Pit and the concern residents have for the natural environment, water supply and quality, noise and air quality, traffic and other social impact issues, many residents came out to the two public presentations by Harrington/McAvan, consultants who are handling the application for Blueland Farms.

As a result the Town, on the recommendation of Ward 1 Councillors Beffort and Paterak, has expanded the usual area for notification. Properties that fall between Beechgrove and the Grange, north to south, and between Horseshoe Hill and Kennedy, east to west, as well as those in Caledon Village, will be notified automatically by mail when the Town receives the application. Other residents can request notification by registering with the Town.

For answers to 'Frequently asked Questions' on how aggregates are dealt with in Caledon those with internet access can review the following document.

[http://www.caledon.ca/contentc/townhall/departments/planningdevelopment/Aggregate\\_FAQ\\_and\\_Answers.pdf](http://www.caledon.ca/contentc/townhall/departments/planningdevelopment/Aggregate_FAQ_and_Answers.pdf)

It's advisable for those property owners who believe that their well water might be impacted by a new pit at 75' below the watertable, to have water volume and quality levels in their wells monitored on an ongoing basis. This will provide a base

line against which changes to water quality and volume can be measured should the licence application be granted in the future and operations begin. When the McCormick Pit application is submitted to the Town it will include a study of the area hydrogeology. In this study the applicant's hydrogeologist determines the "area of influence" within which the proponent plans to monitor the impact of their proposed operation on existing wells. The applicant's report is peer reviewed by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority as well as by an independent hydrogeologist retained by the Town. All the hydrogeologists must come to agreement on the study's methodology, area of influence, study findings, conclusions and recommendations.

At that point residents who fall within the "area of influence" can request that their wells be monitored for water quality and volume at the expense of the proponent.

Last year started with a victory for the Puslinch community that organized to stop the proposed Aikensville Pit. It ended with the Coalition of Concerned Citizens Caledon successful campaign to stop the proposed Rockfort Quarry. CCC has provided us with a virtual template for community process in this area. Every community campaign that ends successfully impacts on emerging and existing law and affects the way future development of rural land in the Niagara Escarpment is conducted. We benefit from those who have laid the groundwork for us and hopefully others will benefit from us. There are numerous gravel, sand and bedrock deposits throughout this region. What kind of legacy will we leave behind if we don't act responsibly now?

It's not news to anyone that the cost of running this campaign will be considerable. REDC has taken the first steps in what will be a lengthy process and is developing the most productive strategy with input from legal and scientific experts.

In this crucial first phase we're appealing for donors to step forward as our budget will have to cover these and future expenses of hiring expert help.

**If you would like more information about contributing financially, as a volunteer, or by donating services, please contact Gloria Reader at 519-927-3376.**

**Contact REDC at [info@peopleforcaledon.com](mailto:info@peopleforcaledon.com)**

**Please subscribe by e-mail if possible - it makes distribution easier for volunteers.**

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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. However if you wish to have your name removed from the update list please send your request to Gloria Reader at the address on the front page or to [admin@peopleforcaledon.com](mailto:admin@peopleforcaledon.com)