



Bulletin #11 November 2012: Year End Round Up

Niagara Escarpment Commission Appeals Walker decision

The Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) has come to the aid of the Collingwood-Duntroon based CCC (Clearview Community Coalition). NEC has asked for a judicial review of the decision by the joint OMB-EBR Board which approved the Walker Quarry licence to mine limestone in Duntroon. The cost of an appeal would have been a prohibitive financial burden for CCC after a lengthy, costly campaign opposing Walker. The OMB-EBR Board decision was marked by a sharp difference of opinion between the 2 OMB representatives and the lone ERB (Environmental Review Board) member.

Massive single site aggregate development gets massive public pushback

Multiple organizations partnered to oppose the Melancthon Quarry, persuading the province to take a highly unusual course and submit the licence application to an Environmental Assessment. Before this process could begin Highland Farm withdrew its application to mine 2400 acres of prime farmland in Melancthon. Led by a local group, NDACT, the coalition of interests raised a very impressive and effective publicity campaign that educated and enthused the greater public to "Stop the Mega Quarry". AND THEY DID!

Unfortunately the tried and true methods of large scale aggregate mining continue largely untouched elsewhere, as in Caledon. Operations, that start with a few hundred acres and expand incrementally through existing licence amendments, grow under the radar. The result is the same - the creation of colossal sites that eventually exceed the acreage that was proposed by Highland Farms, and keep going. Without the pressure of full scale environmental assessments, farmland and woodland continue to be swallowed up while the big picture remains unexamined.

Alton: Water first or water last: where is OPA 226 headed?

To what extent should predictable availability of drinking water from municipal well sources and the predictable wellbeing of the upper Credit River Watershed be prerequisites for permitting new residential and commercial development in the Alton Village area?

Supporters from the Alton area of Caledon report that, according to Caledon's proposed OPA [Official Plan Amendment] 226, it appears the Town plans to drop water management and watershed planning from key criteria it will use to make planning decisions - a possibility they find disturbing.

While the new municipal well being planned for Porterfield Road may accommodate future growth, what about water that finds its way from Orangeville into the Credit River system? On average it's

contaminated six times a year by effluent and sewage overflowing or bypassing treatment facilities upstream. Service planned for residential and commercial development in Alton will need a new sewage treatment plant. Does the Credit River have the assimilative capacity to handle this new effluent source along with increased storm water flows resulting from this development?

Will we be paying for more treatment facilities to chemically decontaminate water that should not be compromised in the first place? Safe drinking water policies seem less about keeping water pristine than about retroactive treatment.

Residents tell us that they have raised these questions officially but answers are in short supply.

Accepting Fill Hauled in from the South

Accepting fill hauled in from major construction sites in Southern Ontario is a lucrative proposition. Opportunities for abuse are rampant. Recent events in Uxbridge have alerted communities to the need for review and action. Some citizens are concerned about fill used in the rehabilitation of former aggregate producing lands.

Many municipalities are examining their Filling By-Laws. Caledon plans amendments for 2013. A [Power Point public information presentation](#) from Nov. 7th is on our website for your information.

REDC Update

The REDC website [People for Caledon](#) was launched in slow motion this summer. Many thanks for the spectacular photos and very useful documents shared by supporters! Thank you also to volunteers who slog away, often in crummy weather, to deliver our Bulletins to supporters who lack e-mail addresses but wish to stay informed. And to you good donors: without your dollars nothing much gets done. We wish REDC could issue charitable receipts but recently regulators are interpreting the definition of a charitable organization very rigidly and we've decided to steer away from awkward situations. The 2013 REDC fundraisers will be posted early in the new year.

Supporters have paved the way for the REDC EMAP 4-subwatersheds Environmental study of which Phase 1 is now completed. The interpretive stage which will furnish us with solid information based on comprehensive maps is set for Phase 2 so keep your donations coming.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of REDC Inc. Best Wishes for the upcoming holiday,
Christine Shain, President, People for Responsible Escarpment Development Caledon 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. 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