



## **Caledon Coalition Prepares for OMB Hearing on Rockfort Quarry**

September 4, 2009

CALEDON, ON – After 11 years of opposition, the battle over the Rockfort Quarry application by James Dick Construction Limited (JDCL) for an open pit dolostone mine at Winston Churchill and Olde Baseline in the Town of Caledon comes before the OMB on September 15, and is expected to last six months.

The Town of Caledon, Region of Peel, Town of Erin, Credit Valley Conservation and Niagara Escarpment Commission have all voted unanimously to oppose this application.

“The Coalition of Concerned Citizens of Caledon has been fighting this application from the beginning and we remain strongly opposed”, said Coalition President Penny Richardson. The Coalition includes thousands of supporters from Caledon, Erin, Wellington, Halton and the GTA, as well as recreational groups such as cycling, skiing, fishing, archery, equestrian, hikers of the Bruce Trail and Trans Canada Trail and GTA day-trippers who consider the area a destination of great value.

Concerns include the potentially serious and degrading water-related impacts of the proposed open pit mine and its water pumping operations from extracting 75 to 100 feet below the water table; the impact of up to 1,000 trucks per day on existing road users; impacts to the sensitive ecosystems of the Niagara Escarpment and Paris Moraine; and the immense anticipated costs to regional and local government and property owners.

Also at stake is the Town of Caledon’s Official Plan Amendment 161, a regulatory instrument for resource extraction management. Even though it was approved by the Province it will now be tested by the OMB Hearing.

The costs for all the work completed by the agencies, government officials and the Coalition to address this application for the past decade are staggering. “There is a better way of spending taxpayers dollars,” said Richardson. “But because of strong opposition to this quarry, the Coalition alone has raised over \$1.6 million and we’ve spent around \$1.3 million in the past 11 years”.

“All expert consultants hired by the agencies and governments to peer review the proposal share similar conclusions about the risks and uncertainties of this site – there are serious concerns and unanswered questions by JDCL that remain after 11 years”. Richardson added, “We’ve hired top experts, we’re prepared to present our case and we are determined to win”.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.coalitioncaledon.com>

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