



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TOWN OF CALEDON SAYS “NO” — AGAIN — TO THE ROCKFORT QUARRY

CALEDON, Ont. — With too many unknowns, and too few guarantees, the Town of Caledon has, for the second time, refused an application for a proposed quarry operation.

This second opposition comes 11 years to the day that Caledon-based James Dick Construction submitted applications to the Town of Caledon to amend the Town's Official Plan and Zoning By-law and receive a quarry license.

The Town of Caledon opposed the application after considering a number of factors: planning issues; environmental damage; the effects on quality of life; and the financial implications for property owners and the municipality.

To date, this application has cost Caledon taxpayers over \$1 million, with an additional \$1.3 million allotted for the OMB hearing. Future additional costs for the Town of Caledon, the Region of Peel and Credit Valley Conservation are estimated to be between \$17.9 million and \$31.2 million. Property value losses could total more than \$43 million.

“With the potential for irreversible damage to our environment, our quality of life, and the financial costs to all of Caledon, Council opposes this application,” said Mayor Marolyn Morrison.

Located at the corner of Old Baseline Road and Winston Churchill Blvd. in Caledon, the land is a mixture of agriculture, rural residential, woodlands, streams and wetlands.

“This property is in the middle of the Credit River watershed and we're just not convinced that this quarry won't harm the natural heritage of the area,” Mayor Morrison said. “Given, also, that this quarry would be operating for decades, the financial impacts could affect generations to come.”

Town staff and Council specifically expressed concern regarding private well water contamination, groundwater contamination and the effects to the natural habitat and vegetation.

Mayor Morrison noted that the residents in this area rely on private wells for water, and they believe their questions regarding groundwater contamination remain unanswered. “This is a significant concern to the residents,” the Mayor added.

When considering the effect on the quality of life in Caledon, Council took into account noise levels, dust and vibration, the impact on property values, and the increase in trucking. Truck traffic, already an issue in Caledon, would be further compounded given the estimates of 800 trucks a day traveling roads that are not designated for haul transport.

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Consultant Mark Dorfman, retained by the Town, noted that Caledon quarries already produce 4.7 million tonnes per year, making Caledon the fifth largest producer in Ontario. Mr. Dorfman estimated that a quarry operation the size that James Dick Construction is proposing would increase Caledon's total production by 32 per cent.

Mr. Dorfman also noted that there are competing Provincial issues in this case since the provincial government, through the Ontario Municipal Board, is ruling on the matter. "The provincial government has a commitment to building Ontario's economy, and an environmental responsibility to protecting the province's water, natural features, and cultural heritage. The mandate of the province is balancing environmental sustainability and economic prosperity and therein lies the conflict with this proposal," he explained.

The Report to Council was more comprehensive than a standard Planning Report and included financial analysis and projections, and reports from consultants and peer reviews. Based on the information provided, Caledon Councillors made several resolutions, including proposing a joint board hearing of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), the Ministry of the Environment and the Environmental Review Tribunal to address the environmental concerns. Specifically, Council recommended contacting the Ministry of the Environment to request the province of Ontario do an environmental assessment of the proposed quarry under the Environmental Assessment Act and that the Environmental Review Tribunal hold a hearing to determine if the area should be declared an area of public water service under the Ontario Water Resources Act.

The Region of Peel will debate their position later this month. The matter will then go before the OMB on May 25, 2009.

For more information, visit www.caledon.ca or contact Mary Hall, Director, Planning and Development, at 905.584.2272 x4188 or mary.hall@caledon.ca.

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