

## C.C.C. Presentation to Peel Region was a Success!



On July 10th, 2003 at the Peel Region Council Chambers the Coalition of Concerned Citizens enjoyed an hour of glory as Bob Gardner clearly and accurately presented our concerns to all

attendees, which included 3 Mayors and the regional councillors. The full gallery of Coalition supporters listened intently as many of the issues were discussed by council. The results were dramatic as Mayor's McCallion, Fennel and Seglins identified and discussed key issues and concerns. Penny Richardson was rock solid as all questions directed towards the CCC, were answered succinctly and honestly.

As a result, the region has appointed a steering committee to investigate the concerns and requested a full report on the sub watershed studies to further examine the potential effects on the water table surrounding the proposed Rockfort Quarry.

A giant step forward for the Coalition of Concerned Citizens. Truly a great day for justice. ©

**Return pledge card & donation  
in an envelope to:**

### COALITION OF CONCERNED CITIZENS

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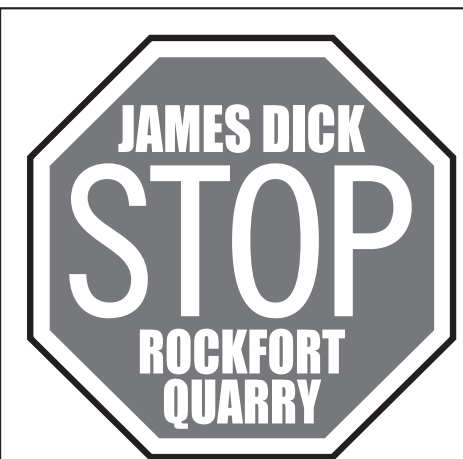
# CONCERNS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR COMMUNICATING OUR CONCERNS

**Keeping our communities green and safe**

## *New Signage Soon to be Placed throughout the Caledon Countryside*

You can not be any more direct than this sign. If you believe in the efforts of the Coalition of Concerned Citizens and wish to display your support, these lawn signs are now available. For a small donation of \$5 dollars each or \$12 dollars for 3 signs. Please call to order – **905.838.4333** and help save our water and preserve our community by supporting this effort. The more signs there are, the stronger the message.



**coalitioncaledon.com**

### CCC Presentation to Caledon

The CCC will be making a presentation to Caledon Council August 11, 03, 2:00 pm similar to the presentation made to Peel Region on July 10th. If you missed it, you are invited to attend and show you care for the importance of our water and the negative impact the Rockfort Quarry will have on our water table.

### **An Important Public Meeting to Revisit the Rockfort Application!**

We need your help at Caledon East Community Centre on Sept 3rd. 03, 7 pm (time & Date will be confirmed). Indicate your continued support of the CCC by attending the PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING consisting of members of Caledon Council, Government and James Dick Construction. Thanks!

**FUNDRAISING:** *Don't forget the "GOLF TOURNAMENT" on October 3rd. 2003 at the Caledon Country Club. • And you can also look forward to our 2nd. Annual "PMS CLOTHING SALE" on October 18th., 2003*  
**Call: 905-838-4333 for tickets or more information.**

**www.coalitioncaledon.com**

# WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY PROTECTION IN ONTARIO

The following is an excerpt from a presentation made by the Credit Valley Conservation's vice chair, Marolyn Morrison.

- From the global perspective, available fresh water amounts to less than 1% of all the water on earth.
- 96.5% of the world's water is salt water in the oceans.
- Of the small percentage of fresh water 69% is locked in glaciers, 30% is groundwater (largely unavailable or unpotable), 1% is surface water.

There are many reasons the world water resources are being taxed to the limits, World population is exploding – by 2025 there are expected to be 2.5 billion more people in addition to the existing 6.1 billion.

Global per capita water consumption is doubling every 20 years.

There is massive pollution of water systems.

There is global deforestation, destruction of wetlands, dumping of pesticides and fertilizers and other pollutants, and global warming.

Aquifer depletion, increased urbanization and pollution are reducing available fresh water supplies just when they should be increasing. For example; when it rains in urban areas it hits pavement and buildings instead of forest and soil where it would have been absorbed and sent underground. Instead water moves quickly into the surface water system, swelling rivers and eventually reaching the oceans - converting fresh water into salt water.

According to the U.N., 31 countries could be facing water stress and scarcity. Of the 2.6 billion new people by 2025 - it is estimated that as many as 2/3 may have serious water shortages and 1/3 could have absolute water scarcity.

Only 1% of the Great Lakes is renewable with the remainder being relict water left over from the last ice age. If we get below that 1% it is likely there will be serious social, environmental and economic consequences

Canada is responsible for 33% of the annual water withdrawals from the Great Lakes and the U.S. is responsible for 67%.

Of Provinces and States surrounding the Great Lakes, Ontario is responsible for 27% of the annual water takings, followed by Michigan at 21%.

10 years ago who would have imagined there could be a Walkerton; water levels in the Great Lakes would have hit near record lows; pans of the Grand River and other watersheds have experienced the critically significant low water levels for 2 years; the Credit River watershed is already 20% overallocated in terms of recharge.

Ontario's "blue gold" as our water is referred to, has not gone unnoticed by other jurisdictions - whether it be the American southwest; other countries; or multinational corporations viewing water

as a tradable commodity.

We must come to a determination of whether access to clean water for basic needs is a fundamental human right or only a "need" to be bartered as a commodity. The question of whether Ontario's water belongs to Ontario or the world and companies at large is a question that Ontario must 'come to grips with'.

If water is considered a commodity there is a danger it could be subject to free trade and be exported from Ontario. With the impact of only 1% available as surface water to recharge our supplies this would have a detrimental effect to Ontario's citizens.

- Many private sector businesses such as agriculture, nurseries, water bottlers, canning companies, and golf courses, not to mention shipping in the Great Lakes are vulnerable to future shortages.
- Municipalities dependent on groundwater for drinking and sewage assimilation could be impacted requiring expensive alternate supplies.
- Groundwater availability could be reduced and our watershed rivers could have reduced flows and impaired water quality, detrimentally affecting ecosystems including fisheries.
- Recreational use of the rivers could be adversely affected.
- Deteriorating water quality in rivers and groundwater would have the potential to affect human health.

Water in Ontario and particularly around the Great Lakes needs to be managed holistically. We need a Comprehensive Water Management Strategy created with input from all stakeholders including the Federal Government, the Province, Municipalities, Conservation Authorities, water experts and the public.

We must decisively take ownership of our water or our water resources may be irreparably diminished.

Justice O'Connor made much needed recommendations on how to safeguard drinking water, the Province has brought in nutrient management legislation and safe drinking water legislation; the Province is funding groundwater studies; the Oak Ridges Moraine is being afforded protection; the Province is reviewing its Permit to Take Water, and the Province has announced establishment of an advisory committee to develop a watershed framework on source protection planning. These are all significant steps forward.

**We still have a lot to do.**

As a priority we need to get a technical handle on how much water is available and exactly how much water is being taken from each watershed. We need water budget studies which integrate groundwater and surface water quantity and quality information to determine how much water is available for consumption.

As Justice O'Connor has recommended we need

to implement source protection plans and we must go beyond them to frill-blown watershed and sub-watershed plans. It is impossible to protect drinking water without protecting pertinent aspects of the environment on which water quantity and quality depend such as recharge areas, wetlands, woodlots, etc.

We can protect water and the land on which it depends with **stewardship, land acquisition and rules.**

The Permit to Take Water is fundamental to long term sustainability of our source water. Water takings must be based on consistency with water budgets for complete watersheds. Water takers should report how much and when they are taking water.

A value must be placed on water itself. In your water rate, where metered, you are only paying for the hard services to deliver and test the water not for the water itself.

A system of allocation rules must be in place and enforced in the case of water shortages. I have been working with the Region of Peel as Chair of Public Works to have the Region look at a policy of water conservation for the dry summer months and that should be coming to Regional Council shortly.

**Water conservation must be encouraged.**

Water pollution including pesticide and herbicide use must be further discouraged. In Caledon thanks to Councillor Sinclairs and the support of

Council we are moving in the right direction.

We must embark on an intensive education and communication program relative to water quality and quantity.

Once we have implemented Justice O'Connor's recommendations on drinking water we must move ahead on the Comprehensive Water Management Strategy. It is necessary because the water management problem is mammoth and potentially costly but critical to our health and quality of life.

We must identify the outstanding issues, reach consensus on the solutions and priorities, and move ahead together.

The issue of sustainable, safe, abundant water for Ontario is "our" collective problem. "We" the federal government, provincial government, municipalities, conservation authorities, nongovernment organizations, academic institutions and the public - in partnership - are the solution.

**We must take charge now, collectively, holistically and decisively to protect our source water and our quality of life.**

**We need a Comprehensive Water Management Strategy.**

Marolyn Morrison,  
Regional Councillor,  
Vice-Chair, Credit Valley Conservation.

## YES, I would like to help in the fight!

- I would like to help in keeping our water and environment safe.
- Please send me more information.
- Find my tax-refundable donation enclosed in the amount of:

- \$50.
- \$100.
- other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make cheques payable to the:  
Environmental Defence Canada (for the CCC).  
or bill my Visa/Mastercard**

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail in an envelope to the address on the back.**

Thank-you!