

THE LOOK OUT



CANADA 150
1867-2017

JULY 2017

"I love Canada. It's a wonderful political act that exists atop a breathtakingly beautiful land."

... Yann Martel

HAPPY 150TH BIRTHDAY CANADA!

A SUCCESS STORY FOR OUR CITIZENS!

Recently, we became aware of a proposal to amend the license for the operation of the Craig Aggregate operation at the intersection of 5 Side road and the Hockley Road in Mono. This pit was originally approved in 1994 by the Mono Council, on the condition that it not mine any product below the water table.

Well, guess what! The Brazilian Company that owns the pit (Votorantim) has applied to have its license amended to allow below water table mining. As the site of this operation is adjacent to the Island Lake, there are major concerns that digging below the water table will interfere with the water supplies feeding the Lake, as well as water flows into the Credit and Nottawasagua Rivers which both source in that area. And, at the same time, any interference with water flows creates risks for local wells.

While all the usual issues (noise, road use and safety, dust, etc.) related to aggregate

mining arise in this situation, there are other serious concerns. Island Lake has two major uses. It was originally formed by damming the headwaters of the Credit River to ensure that in dry periods, when the Credit levels were low, water could be released to ensure that there were adequate flows to dilute the effluent coming from Orangeville's sewage disposal plant, thus maintaining clean water standards for all communities downstream and for Lake Ontario.

The other main use has been for recreation purposes, with major investments being made to establish walking trails, and on-water activities such as rowing and ice fishing. These activities have been well supported by citizen contributions and volunteer work.

There appear to be major risks from below water table mining at the Craig Pit; risks which were noted by the Town of Mono and some of the recreational

organizations that use the Lake in raising objections to the Craig Pit proposal with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), the government body which makes decisions about aggregate mining renewals.

A local group recently formed to join this battle, with full support from MC² and Protect Mono. The group, called Stop Craig Pit. (www.stopcraigpit.com) was in early stages when we received word that the application for amending the license for below the water table had been rejected by the MNRF. This may not be the last word on this. The aggregate companies are tenacious, as we know. But changing the MNRF decision will be tough for Votorantim ...

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**Mono Mulmur
Citizens' Coalition**

Our voice in the community
SINCE 1988

FROM DON'S DESK....

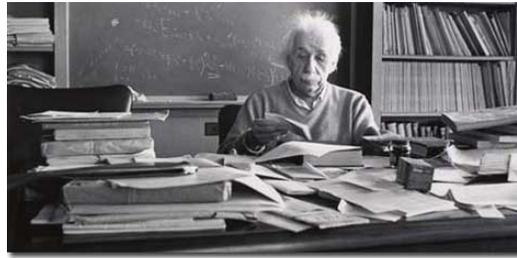
Each year we seem to face a wide range of new challenges as the citizens of Dufferin, Mono and Mulmur work to protect the wonderful environment in which we live. Over the past months the battle has continued.

We have had some successes, particularly with the stopping of the plan to test the use of motorized vehicles in the County Forest lands in Mulmur. MC² and many of our members sent comments to the Forestry Sub-Committee of the County Council opposing this idea. Of roughly 120 serious comments, 90 were opposed. Led by Mulmur Township's refusal to issue Special Events Permits for such events, the County Council turned down the "trial". As with the fill dumping case from last year and with the water-ski proposal that is ongoing, our efforts benefit greatly when we are aligned with the local Councils. The following is a summary of the other issues we are involved with currently.

ARBOUR FARMS:

The proposal to put an aggregate operation on Airport Road in Mulmur has been opposed by the community for over fifteen years. C.O.R.E (Conserve Our Rural Environment) has led this battle. The main concern has been the safety issues caused by extensive truck traffic on Airport Road. A proposed settlement would see traffic related to the operation moved to 7th Line of Mulmur, and routed, for the most part, into Simcoe County. This mediated settlement, agreed to by the proponent, CORE, Mulmur and the local citizens' group, is now being questioned by Simcoe County, and with no agreement reached Simcoe is taking this case to Court. This has been a very expensive case and CORE will appreciate any financial help, including attending their

annual fundraising dinner/music event on August 26, 2017. See page 3 for more details about this event.



If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, then what are we to think of an empty desk?

Albert Einstein

GREENWOOD AGGREGATE PROPOSAL:

The Greenwood companies applied in September 2016, for a license to open a large aggregate mine in north Mono (30 Sideroad, between 3rd and 4th Lines). Protect Mono (PM), a local citizens' group, has been working to stop this proposal. The application, under the Aggregate Resources Act, includes requests for Mono Official Plan and Zoning modifications. Objections to the application have been raised by Mono, PM, Ministry of Transport (MTO), the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, and others. Importantly, the MTO has, three times, rejected Greenwood's proposal to use HW 89 as their main entry point. PM, with a campaign that has include the generation of 378 letters of opposition, and the Town of Mono, focusing on a range of issues including noise, dust, and traffic safety, have asked the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) not to deal with any of these objections until the HW 89 access issue is resolved. (Mono Sideroad 30 is being considered as an option.) Without this resolution the application has been viewed as incomplete by Mono and PM. At a recent OMB hearing Greenwood and its opponents agreed to attempt to resolve the outstanding issues regarding the incomplete application, so the OMB

review is currently on hold.

WATER SKI PROPOSAL:

The application to the Niagara Escarpment Commission for permission to host water-skiing competitions on a property near the corner of Airport Road and Highway 9 in Mono was the subject of three sets of hearings in 2016 and 2017. The Town of Mono, supported by several local citizens and MC²,

opposed this proposal based on several concerns including traffic, noise, and, importantly, risks to water supplies. MC² raised concerns about whether this type of activity is appropriate for Escarpment lands. During the hearings the NEC and Mono announced the agreement that if any such events were permitted, they would be governed by Mono's legal right to establish conditions for events under its Special Events Permit process. The hearings have been completed and a decision made by the hearing Board. The decision has been passed to the Minister who has final decision power. We should hear the results soon, and will keep members informed.

There's always a lot going on, always a new battle to fight. We don't always win these battles, but our community has developed the reputation for fighting to protect our fine part of the world. And we do win in some cases, usually when the broader community rallies. The Craig Pit decision is a major "win" for our community, and for a group of citizens who were ready to fight. All that said, we must remain vigilant.

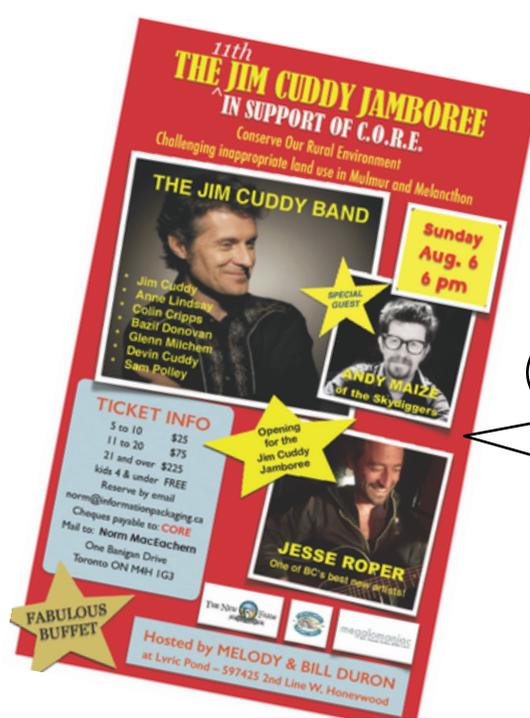
You will note in this Newsletter that MC² is continuing its membership renewal drive. Thanks to all members who have signed up for 2017, and for those who haven't, we look forward to

... Continued on Pg. 3

DON'S DESK CONTINUES....

hearing from you. We are involved in a lot of work, as you can see from this article, and throughout the Newsletter. It is only possible with our members' support. Thanks for that.

Don MacFarlane



Book your tickets today!
email
norm@informationpackaging.ca
to reserve your spot!



SO.... WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON LATELY?

- **HOT OFF THE PRESS!!** One of Canada's leading environmental activists, Maude Barlow, will be the featured speaker at an MC² Environment Committee public meeting on the morning of Saturday October 21, 2017. Our hard-working and dedicated Environment Committee is continuing with its agenda of providing timely and extremely interesting presentations to the local community. Ms. Barlow will speak mainly about water issues, critical ones for our Headwaters' community. Stay tuned for further details on our website closer to the date.
- Over the past few months, recognizing that most of the issues we deal with are related to land use, we have been reconstituting our Land Use Committee (LUC). This Committee has been focusing on building knowledge regarding a wide range of land use issues, including water taking, gravel pits, and soil depletion due to monoculture farm practices. One priority is resurrecting

our work on road noise, researching approaches to dealing with this challenging problem for many citizens of our community. The LUC works very closely with the Board, defining issues, researching options, and identifying action plans. This is a relatively new committee and, for those amongst our members who are concerned about land use issues, we are welcoming new committee participants ...

- Our neighbours to the east in Adjala-Tosorontio Township have been waging a long hard battle against a major below water table aggregate mining proposal, near the Mulmur Townline. They are contesting the proposal at the OMB, which, as we all know, is an expensive proposition. You can find information about their issues and their fundraising efforts on their website: www.nogravelpit.com. They need our help!
- **SAVE THE DATE** for MC²'s Annual General Meeting! This popular event is planned this year for SUNDAY (note the change of day from our usual Saturday), September 24th at the Hockley Village Community Hall in the Hockley Village from 2:00-5:00 PM. Based on members' feedback, this year's AGM will be a wine and cheese get-together and will include more updating from other

community groups and more opportunity for socializing. Keep your eye out for the invitation to follow later in the summer ...

- In relation to the AGM, we are looking for a member with a Smart Serve Certificate who could volunteer to help us with this event. Please contact us at info@monomulmur.com if you are that person! ...
- Another victory for sanity: The announced plan of the Adamo family to continue using loud noise making machines (canons, they are called) to protect their Mono vineyard from bird damage was reversed. A very active citizens' group, protesting the loud noise throughout daylight hours, noise that was highly disruptive to the quality of life and to neighbouring equestrian operations, worked with the Mono Council and with the Adamos to stop this practice. Last April, the Adamo family announced that they were not going to continue the use of anti-bird canons.

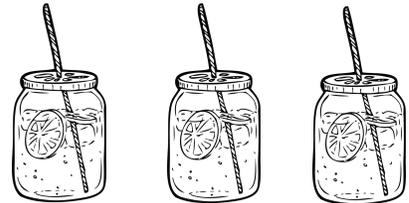
Noise intrusion is a major, and increasing, problem in our community. This "win" can give us all hope as we deal with other noise issues.

THE LAST WORD IS OURS....

Happy Summer! As you read through the newsletter you will be reminded of the ongoing efforts within our community of local citizens and of the continued involvement by MC² members to fight for what we value in our community and for our environment.

The Newsletter is a great summary of what has been / is going on and compliments our website well. Over this past year I have received some really wonderful feedback about our communications. Members like the look and ease of use of the website and the beautifully crafted eblast notifications and newsletters. Members have expressed appreciation of receiving the information about what's going on and how they can be involved.

We do struggle with the number of communications and work hard to send only when necessary. Sometimes, there are multiple initiatives that need our attention and the frequency of the eblasts increases. However, we feel you would rather be in the know than find out you missed something that is important to you. This gives me a great opportunity to acknowledge the creative work done by our Webmaster, Felicite Morgan. She makes sure we make sense and she makes messaging "pretty" and pleasing to the reader. I invite you to surf through the website for details behind the eblasts and newsletters, and to open the "mailbox" and scan the letters issued by the Board and received from members. Please let us know your thoughts on what you see and read.



Thank you for your continued support through renewal of your membership. Your renewal keeps you on the distribution list and keeps us connected so we can preserve our wonderful environment and represent our community perspective to local and provincial governments.

The MC² Board of Directors meets the first Friday of each month and we welcome your input to assist in directing our work. We can be reached via email at (info@monomulmur.com) Thank you all for participating in being the eyes, ears and voice for Mono and Mulmur and Dufferin County.

Elaine Capes
President

YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS ISSUE OR ANY OTHER ARE WELCOMED. EMAIL US AT: INFO@MONOMULMUR.COM .

THE LOOKOUT

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY
THE MONO MULMUR CITIZENS' COALITION



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Cover Photo: "Ripening wheat from 5 Sideroad, Mulmur" Credit to Felicite Morgan