

THE LOOK OUT

JUNE 2015



FILL DUMPING - AN EMERGING THREAT

Dufferin County is at the forefront of a rapidly evolving threat to our rural communities. Many of you will have noticed the large number of dump trucks on our local roads. Many of these trucks are moving aggregate, and this is a growing threat with more aggregate mining proposals emerging each year. That is a problem we have been living with for many years.

Now we are seeing the arrival of an increasing number of trucks bringing land fill from the city. It is ironic that as we provide the aggregate for new building and infrastructure projects, we are now being targeted as disposal sites for the material being dug out of the sites for these projects. Again, our proximity to the urban sprawl works against us.

Many of our members have asked about these fill trucks. Where are they going? Do we know what they are dumping? What are the rules for fill dumping? What is the position of the Provincial government regarding fill disposal? What are our local governments doing? Is dumping

impacting water resources? Is the material being dumped contaminated with chemical waste, construction waste, or other contaminants?

Two current approaches that are being used for dumping are on airport sites, under federal control, and rehabilitation of depleted aggregate mines, under control of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. One airport project, in Uxbridge, has been found to be widely contaminated. There is an aggregate rehabilitation project in Mulmur on Highway 89, and many members will be familiar with a huge airport dump site on Highway 9, just west of Schomberg. One can only hope that neither of these sites is contaminated or interfering with water resources.

All of these questions are being brought to the fore in Dufferin County because of an application by a local farmer to bring several thousand loads of fill onto his land in Mono. He originally applied to Mono Council for an exception to their by-law that regulates fill dumping. Mono rejected his application and subsequently

he appealed this decision to a Provincial board called the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board (NFPPB). This Board was established over 20 years ago to regulate against municipal by-laws that outlawed traditional farm practices. An example would be by-laws prohibiting manure spreading because neighbours complained about the smell.

In the current case against Mono, the farmer is making the claim that he needs to fill in a large gully on his land so as to improve his sheep farming operation. His claim is that the fill dumping is a normal farm practice and that the NFPPB has the power to overrule Mono's decision based on its by-law. The NFPPB has taken the case. The farmer and Mono are the principal parties to this case. Mono resident Elaine Kehoe is also a party, working to represent the views of the citizens of Mono. MC² has applied to be a party, aiming to state the case for many other rural communities that will inevitably be impacted if local by-laws are overturned.

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MONO MULMUR CITIZENS' COALITION
P.O. BOX 686 STN MAIN
SHELBURNE, ONTARIO L9V 3M1

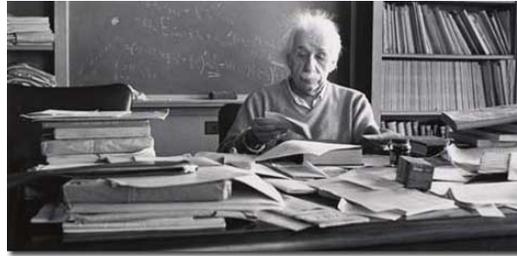
FROM DON'S DESK....

Normally, when summer arrives, the MC² Board can retreat into holiday mode and relax from our ongoing business. This year that is not the case. Several major issues have been occupying us, each of them important, as we think about the ongoing pressure of development on our, mostly, rural communities.

Road noise has again surfaced as a major problem for many of our residents. There are well publicized "race tracks" in both Mono and Mulmur which are again hosting large numbers of motor cycle riders from points south. While the majority of these riders are relatively quiet and obey speed laws, there are always riders who ignore local speed and noise by laws. We are working with Mulmur Council on this problem and as solutions emerge they will be shared with Mono.

The aggregate mining problem is ongoing. There will be an OMB hearing regarding the proposed Airport Road mine on July 8, 2015 (10:30 am) at the Mulmur Township Offices. We are working with CORE to define the role we should play at this hearing. We encourage members to show up at the hearing to provide a public demonstration of opposition to the project and support for CORE.

A group called Protect Mono has emerged to fight the development of an aggregate mine on 30 Sideroad in Mono. This site is in the centre of a residential area and the land is an



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

Albert Einstein

excellent agricultural resource. At a recent public meeting Protect Mono attracted a large crowd of citizens who heard several excellent presentations.

Another group, the Community Safety and Business Preservation Association (CSBPA) has been doing an excellent job of publicizing both the safety (especially for school buses) and liability threats to our communities arising from the dramatic increase in truck traffic. The group has made presentations to several municipal Councils and has enlisted support from many of these groups. This work is an important direction in the opposition to aggregate mining.

MC² has been supporting each of these groups. You can find links to their websites on our website.

The other major issue that is rapidly emerging is the effort to find rural areas to host the dumping of fill from our urban neighbours to the South. MC² has been working extensively on this issue, which is covered in more detail on the front page of this Newsletter.

Finally, we have been working with the Mono Council on an attempt to develop more citizen engagement in our community. We recently made a presentation to Council, to which the response was that they would work to decide which of our recommendations could be developed into specific plans. Our presentation can be found on our website. We will be following up with Mono and may approach Mulmur with a similar effort.

Lots going on! We will update members at our Annual General Meeting on September 19, 2015. I hope to see you all there.

"DUMPING" FROM THE FRONT PAGE....

The major concerns expressed in opposition to this application focus on: the potential for soil being dumped coming from contaminated sites; the threat that the dumped soil will impede normal surface water flows as well as

impacting ground water in aquifers which feed local area wells and which flow into the major river systems that source in our area; the addition of large numbers of trucks on our local roads impacting safety and maintenance costs; property values which may well be negatively impacted; and that the approval of this proposal will open the floodgates for many more normal

farm practice claims, turning of our communities into extensive fill dumping sites.

While MC² will attempt to ensure that all of these issues are considered by the NFPPB, we also feel that we can support the efforts to stop this project by mobilizing local citizens. We will encourage as many citizens as possible to

... Continued on Pg. 3

"DUMPING" CONTINUED...

show up at the meetings where the NFPPB is hearing the case. We are working to have citizens come to Council meetings to encourage Mono, which should be the aggressive leader in this case, defending the interests of its citizens, to take every step possible to win this case, including updating their fill dumping by-law to meet the rapidly changing situation surrounding fill. We are urging citizens to forward petitions and letters to the NFPPB which should help to highlight the many concerns of the residents of our communities. Draft letters and petition forms can be found on

our website, and we will be using eblasts to mobilize action by our members.

You can be a huge help by questioning your local politicians every time you see a strange truck(s) filled with earth clay or other non-aggregate type materials being dumped in our area. We believe there are random dumpings being made currently and unless our officials are notified, no action can take place. Please pick up your phone and question suspicious trucking activity.

Many of the actions we will be taking will have costs attached, and at some point we may organize a fund raising activity. Additionally, any help our members can provide in getting new members to join MC² will assist in improving our impact.

We believe that we are at a crossroad on fill dumping. If this case against Mono can be successfully defended, the potential magnitude of this issue will be reduced. It won't go away, and we can be sure that we will be battling fill dumping for many years to come. But by avoiding the possibility that massive fill dumping projects can be approved as a "normal" farm practice, we will both bring a major spotlight onto a problem that eventually the Province will have to regulate, and we can avoid the precedent that the NFPPB can overturn by-laws passed to protect citizens from the many negative possibilities of such projects.



SO....

WHAT'S BEEN www.monomulmur.com.

GOING ON ● **On April 1st**, our President Don MacFarlane and Board Director Ernie Rovet

LATELY?

- **On March 28th** at Monora Park, MC²'s very active Environment Committee welcomed the community to a special free presentation, "**Extreme Weather ... Are We Prepared?**"

Our presenters included Michael Dunmore, Director of Public Works for Mono, Steve Murphy, Emergency Management Dufferin County, Glenn Switzer of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and Pete Karageorgos, Director of Consumer and Industry Relations representing the Insurance Bureau of Canada. All our speakers provided plenty of great information and suggestions for what we can do to help ourselves to be prepared for emergency situations such as flooding, tornadoes, power outages

and road closures due to snowstorms. For a complete report of this event please visit the "Bulletin Board" section of our website at

● **On April 1st**, our President Don MacFarlane and Board Director Ernie Rovet made a presentation to the Mulmur Council requesting that a serious attempt be made to control **road noise**, particularly on River Road. Many concrete suggestions were made and reaction was generally positive. Don is currently following up with the Council to discuss progress on this issue."

- **On May 26th**, Don MacFarlane led a delegation to Mono Council's regularly scheduled meeting. Following up on prior meetings with Mayor Laura Ryan and Deputy Mayor Ken McGhee on the issue of citizen engagement, MC²'s very positive presentation, "**Building a Culture of Citizen Engagement and Transparency**", was well received by the Council. Council agreed to refer the issue to the Town Staff and to the Mono Research Advisory

Committee (MRAC) for advice as to how to follow up on MC²'s many recommendations, ranging from easily do-able (Town Hall meetings twice a year focusing on an interesting issue, signage on main roads advertising upcoming events and important meetings) to the more complex (effective and ongoing use of social media). To view the power point presentation we prepared for the Council delegation, go to the "Bulletin Board" on our website at

www.monomulmur.com.

- **On May 30th**, our community partner, Protect Mono held a very well-attended public meeting at Primrose Elementary School to inform residents of the status of their opposition to the development of a large gravel pit in North Mono. During this meeting, Leeanne Farrugia, chairperson of **Protect Mono** and MC² member, acknowledged MC²'s contribution to her organization in helping them to get up and running so effectively. We also promoted Barn Fest 2015, the fundraising event held by Food & Water First on June 14th.

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● **On June 13th**, our **Advisory Committee** met in Rosemont. As always, this very helpful group had much input and good suggestions as they were brought up-to-date on the many issues facing us these days. Our sincere thanks to Committee members Carl Alexander, Kirsten Ball, Dick Byford, Marion Herron, George Knowles, Harvey Kolodny, Paul

Lansing, Frances MacFarlane and Carl Tafel for their much-valued contribution on a sunny Saturday morning.

● **On June 20th**, MC's Environment Committee participated in **Bees to Butterflies... and Beyond**, the "pollinator event of the year" held at Not So Hollow Farm in Mulmur. The all-day event focused on the

importance of pollinators and the many challenges they face in our world today. The owners and operators of Not so Hollow Farm, Viki Reynolds and Ian Payne, are "passionate people perpetually providing provincially propagated pollinator preferred plants ... for a positive planet". Try saying that one fast!! Visit their website for more information about their work, www.otsohollowfarm.ca.

THE LAST WORD IS OURS.... This time at least!

We thank all of our loyal members who continue to support our efforts each year by renewing their memberships. We're also excited by and grateful for the number of new members who have joined our ranks recently. Conversely, because of the ebb and flow of life in general, we lose members as well for a variety of

reasons. With this issue, we've sent out reminders that our \$30 membership fee is an annual commitment. We rely on our membership dues to be able to provide website service, printing and postage costs for our newsletters and brochures, office necessities, venues, refreshments and small speaker gifts

for our public information sessions and other costs associated with "doing business" in the community. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2015 yet, please consider doing so in the next little while ...

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual General Meeting - Saturday September 19th, 2015.
Location TBD.

10:30 - 12:00 - The AGM

12:00 - Onwards - The Social!

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



Cover Photo: Trailer hiking the Bruce Trail near 1st Line, Mulmur.
Credit to Carl Tafel.

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