

Quarry Hearing Re-Scheduled For July 2006

Article Date March 8, 2006

Following adjournment of the OMB Hearings last November, there was another unanimous rejection of a revised quarry application in December by Lake of Bays Township. In response the property owner filed another appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). **The OMB has now scheduled resumption of the public Hearing into this matter for two weeks next summer, starting Monday July 10th. in Dwight and concluding on or before Friday July 21st.**

While public attendance is invited for every day of these Hearings, we fully expect there will be one evening session available to provide an opportunity for direct input on this topic from lake residents, cottagers and others in our community. Although that hasn't been scheduled yet, one possibility is the night of Monday July 17th. Certainly, we will advise you as soon as we have confirmation. Public attendance and participation at that time will be a vital aspect of our effort to prevent this new industrialization of our community.

The issues and concerns for consideration by the OMB will be the same as previously raised, and the question of whether a new rock quarry within sight and sound of our shores is appropriate will finally be decided.

We are pleased to indicate that our team of expert consultants has now been confirmed for the conclusion of this Hearing. John Coulter on acoustical aspects, Janet Amos on environmental planning issues, the hydro-geological team of William Stiebel and Michael Lord from the firm of Jacques Whitford Associates will again be helping us make our case under the direction of land use legal specialist Barnet H. Kussner of the firm Weir-Foulds LLP.

And, of course, we expect to continue our close coordination with the Township of Lake of Bays through these Hearings as they defend the decision by our elected Council to deny this industrial re-zoning.

Regrettably however there have been unfortunate consequences arising from the unexpected adjournment of the Hearings last fall. Among them, on-going revisions to the proposed quarry application through the proceedings to date, as well as a need to take into consideration recent changes in the local comprehensive zoning by-law. These have meant not simply delays for our case but additional costs as well, despite our best efforts to minimize all negative impacts.

We are now preparing a revised budget for this important cause, and will be consulting with the Board of Directors of the Peninsula Lake Association to develop the necessary steps to properly prepare for these July Hearings.

Incidentally, we are assured that tax receipts for charitable donations during 2005 have now been mailed. If you have questions about yours please contact the Association's Treasurer Tom Jeruzalski (tom@jeruzalski.ca).

Finally, some of you are aware of recently proposed legislation in Ontario which could significantly alter the operation and approach of the OMB if passed. We have been asked whether these changes might assist our case in some way. As we understand it, this matter must proceed under the current law and so unfortunately we can expect no relief from these new proposals for reform of the OMB process.

Of course, whenever there are further developments in this case we will be emailing updates as well as posting them on the Pen Lake Association's website (www.penlake.ca).

Thanks again for all your help, keen interest and tremendous support with this. We are deeply grateful and remain confident that with your continued backing we can win in July.

The Quarry Committee for the Peninsula Lake Association

(Pat and Joe Doyle; Jean Fraser, Catherine Moffat; Cathy Purvis; Len Ross)