
June 20, 2017

sent via email

Councillor Rick Craven
City of Burlington
426 Brant St.
P.O. Box 5013
Burlington, ON
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Dear Councillor Craven,

**MERIDIAN BRICK (formerly Forterra /Hanson Brick)
East Cell Quarry Development (1775 King Rd., Burlington)**

At Issue: The destruction of forest and the health of the community & greenbelt

We thought the article in your latest newsletter (June 2017) was, as usual, slanted towards what seems to be your 'preferred' constituents - the 'aggregates' - and certainly had no depth or objectivity! The fact that you said nothing to your ~250 constituents during Meridian's public information meeting (May 25th) and preferring to use the 'The Burlington Post City Hall Reporter' thereafter speaks volumes.

As you are aware, the MANDATED Dust and Noise Studies, referenced at the public information meeting, were 'commissioned' by Jannock (a previous quarry landowner) in order to show that any noise and / or dust resulting from the quarry operation would not be a nuisance or a health hazard to the residents of the Jannock proposed Westhaven Drive (WHD) residential subdivision (incidentally zoned as such by the City). Succinctly, the documented aim of the Jannock 'Commissioned' reports was to convince everyone - the MOECC, MNRF, City and the Region of Halton, etc. that the proposed quarry operation would not offer any health issues, a point that was clearly stated in the SS Wilson Noise Study – "... *the objective of this report is to support an application for Final Approval and Registration of the proposed development*".

As a matter of interest, we are not sure if you also appreciate that the SS Wilson Noise Study used the predictive modelling software called ORNAMENT. ORNAMENT was a product that was designed and developed under the technical direction of **SS Wilson and overviewed by the MOE (now MOECC)**. This relationship, in our view, seems to raise VERY serious questions of professional 'detachment' and objectivity and certainly, again in our view, should have highlighted the need for an INDEPENDENT peer review of the Noise Study because of its importance to the well-being of the prospective WHD residents.

Remember the predictive modelling approach, used by SS Wilson, is also subject to the "garbage in, garbage out (GIGO)" phenomenon which originated in the computer science and information technology fields to CAUTION the reader that the quality of the output received from a 'predictive' program (e.g. ORNAMENT and their Noise study) not only depends on the quality of the algorithms used in the program (as technically directed by SS Wilson) but also depends on the quality, quantity, relevance, and integrity of the information that was input (somewhat subjective). This input information was not a trivial task since MANY assumptions were needed to be made especially at a time when the relevant traffic pattern was VERY uncertain, the WHD subdivision was still on the 'drawing board', the deforestation and hence quarrying in the east cell was not started, the effect of the trees in 'shielding' the subdivision from noise and dust largely unknown, and so on.

Now a predictive modelling approach (with the potential of the GIGO phenomenon) may have been necessary 20 years ago but we point out that many important factors were NOT considered - the WHD Subdivision was under 'review', the 407 had just opened and not considered in the study, the 2-lane North Service Road (NSR) was mainly used by local Tyandaga traffic and not considered in the study, and the traffic to Niagara, Waterdown, Dundas and Hamilton was a fraction of today's volume. BUT ...the WHD subdivision of ~100 homes is NOW a REALITY (and has been for almost 20 years), the traffic noise coming from the QEW / 403 / 407 / NSR 'interchange' is also a reality so computer modelling is NO LONGER NEEDED – we live with the reality on a daily basis.

Consequently, we can now conduct a Noise Study using **real data** and appropriate 2017 technology and NOT use the questionable, subjective, error-prone theoretical models. In order to ACCURATELY simulate the noise coming from the quarry from the bulldozers, front-end loaders, trucks, etc., we can strategically position well-established, well-accepted, AFFORDABLE, mobile, and sophisticated 'sound boxes' on the site of the proposed east quarry operation and record the ACTUAL sound levels at the now developed and mature WHD subdivision. We already have the PUBLISHED operational procedures that Meridian said they will follow in order to extract, store, and remove the brick ore so we can NOW readily obtain ACCURATE and REALISTIC noise readings, based on these documented procedures, at the WHD subdivision houses (and beyond) and do not have to rely on the PREDICTIVE values published in the 1998 SS Wilson Noise Study!

Now the AGRA Dust Study (which was pretty much echoed by the Pinchin presentation at the Meridian public information meeting) was also used (and 'commissioned') by Jannock in the WHD Subdivision approval process. Without going into the questionable AGRA theoretical modelling details we refer you instead to the same arguments and uncertainties of Predictive Modelling (aka GIGO) that we used to question the 'integrity' of the SS Wilson Noise Study.

We do, however, have MANY other professional opinions that totally disagree with Meridian's 'experts', for example, a 40-year expert in the Air Pollution control business states "... the expansion of a quarry operation that will create excessive air pollution ... ". We also point out the 30 LOCAL professionals (MD / Scientists / etc.) who also expressed, in an open letter (October 2016), their deepest concerns about the potential carcinogenic health risks that the quarry may present.

Because of the potentially serious health issues that this quarry dust can cause a peer review by an INDEPENDENT consultant not 'aligned' to the aggregates is ABSOLUTELY essential.

It is of note that in NONE of the meetings, emails, discussions, phone calls, face-to-face debates, letters, etc. that we have had with you, the City, the Mayor, Meridian, our MPP, the MNRF / MOECC or presented in the SS Wilson Noise or AGRA Dust Studies has there EVER been any mention or discussion with respect to how the inevitable noise and dust resulting from the proposed quarry expansion will be MONITORED in order to ensure compliance to local, provincial, and federal guidelines as well as being within the guesstimates of the Noise and Dust Studies not to mention the many Meridian's, Forterra's, and Hanson's oral commitments.

Essentially the City, Meridian, our MPP, the MNRF / MOECC can say almost ANYTHING, with legal and operational impunity, in order to placate (and possibly mislead) the community into INACTION and they can also potentially use their political status to free themselves from having to deal with the hard decisions necessary to deal with the quarry and all its health implications preferring to 'pass the buck' to other agencies and eventually "cowing down" to VERY questionable decisions that were made many, many years ago!

We are, however, somewhat encouraged that the "*City of Burlington has been pounding the pavement in order to improve existing green space*" since this may indicate that relief is on the way. Stopping the quarry expansion and saving the ~35 acres of forest with its thousands upon thousands of mature trees will now offer a unique opportunity for the Mayor and Council to stop "*pounding the pavement*" and take a "walk in the Tyandaga woodlands" and gain the satisfaction of seeing their Burlington vision of "green space" come true!

Once again, we are hopeful that we can rely on YOU to HONOUR your constitutional duties and to represent your constituents in this matter. The TEC will not, however, give in to our principals of a safe, healthy, livable environment and a greener Burlington. In the words of Steve Jobs – "Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith".

Sincerely,

Tyandaga Environmental Coalition Inc. (TEC)

Copy to: Mayor Goldring
M. Meed-Ward, J. Taylor, J. Dennison, P. Sharman, B. Lancaster (councillors)
M. Greenlee (Chief of Staff)
J. Ridge (City Manager)
M.L. Tanner (Director, Planning and Building)
Minister E. McMahan (MPP)