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Clearview files challenge to Niagara Escarpment Commission decision on road work

NEWS Dec 08, 2015 by Ian Adams Wasaga Sun



Clearview Township municipal offices. - Ian Adams File Photo

Clearview Township is challenging a Niagara Escarpment Commission decision to deny an application to do roadwork planned as part of the expansion of Walker Aggregates' quarry west of Duntroon.

Last month, the NEC denied the township's application to rebuild 26/27 Sideroad from the 10th Concession, work that would have included converting a section that's currently a so-called summer road so it could be used year-round.

Township council decided at its Dec. 7 meeting to launch an appeal to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. The deadline to file an appeal was Dec. 11.

While NEC planning staff supported the application, the commission ultimately turned it down because the project did not meet the commission's test of 'essential'.

The NEC's decision also noted the tunnel under County Road 91 between Walker Aggregates' existing quarry and the expansion was not taken into consideration when the township's development application was made, "which further erodes the case for this road project to be deemed 'essential'".

The decision also determined the development of the road would cause environmental harm to neighbouring cold-water streams, and damage steep escarpment slopes.

Clearview Township mayor Chris Vanderkrus said the municipality had little choice but to issue a challenge, given the road's reconstruction is part of an agreement between the township, Walker, and Grey and Simcoe counties.

Under that agreement, Walker would take ownership of County Road 91 west from the 10th Concession to the township boundary, and nearly \$10 million in upgrades to 91 east to Duntroon, the 10th Concession, and the sideroad would be undertaken - largely financed by the aggregate company.

"The NEC had the right to turn it down, but the staff recommendations had put forth to approve it," Vanderkrus said. "We have an agreement that we would be [upgrading the road], one way or another.

"Realistically, to abide by the agreement, we have to take it to the fullest extent, as much as we can."

Vanderkrus said if the minister denies the township's appeal, "then we'll all have to come back to the table and rethink the process."

The township won't be the only ones appealing the decision; Vanderkrus said he understood some of the residents on the road may also launch a challenge.



by [Ian Adams](#)

Ian Adams is a reporter for Simcoe.com, covering community news and events throughout south Georgian Bay, and municipal councils in Collingwood and Wasaga Beach.

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Spring Paddle with Friends of Minesing...

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MAY 11 SATURDAY

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MAY 11 SATURDAY

Spring sale, white elephant and craft...

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MAY 11 SATURDAY

Bake Sale and Coffee/Tea Room

Collingwood | 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

MAY 11 SATURDAY

Spring Bazaar Minesing...

Springwater | 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

MAY 11 SATURDAY

Rare and Rline Sale

Blue Mountains | 9:00 AM - 11:59 PM

MAY 11 SATURDAY

Spring sale, white elephant and craft...

Innisfil | 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

MAY 11 SATURDAY

Bake Sale and Coffee/Tea Room

Collingwood | 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

MAY 11 SATURDAY

Spring Bazaar

Adjala-Tosorontio | 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

MAY 11 SATURDAY

Bags and Bling Sale

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