

OMB to rule on quarry application

An application by St. Lawrence Cement Co. for a license to operate an existing 60-acre shale quarry on its property in southwest Mississauga has been deferred for a written judgment by the Ontario Municipal Board.

The board heard evidence this week from the company, area ratepayers and the ministry of natural resources.

A few residents from neighboring Hazelhurst Rd. objected to the application, as did a company in the area

which was identified only by a number to the board.

The quarry has been operating for many years. According to an official of the natural resources ministry, St. Lawrence Cement did not realize that the Pits and

Quarries Control Act had been passed in 1971.

"The company apparently didn't know about the new act," says Eric Blunden of the mineral resources branch. "It was accidental but the rules are set. Based on the fact that ignorance of the law is no excuse, the hearing was called."

Under the act, the company is obliged to apply for a license and submit satisfactory site plans. They must subsequently conform to regulations set down by the ministry. The most important of these, according to Blunden, is "progressive rehabilitation."

This requires that as certain sections of the quarry are

completely mined, they must be "rehabilitated" by filling them in with topsoil and then reseeded the area. "It's designed so that there are no more gaping holes left in the landscape," according to the ministry official.

The company, if it receives a license, must also provide adequate tree screening from adjacent areas, if such screening does not already exist.

The license will be good for the life of the quarry, unless there are serious violations of the regulations.

The ministry neither opposed nor supported the application. The OMB is expected to make a recommendation to the minister of natural resources on the application within two months.

Residents who opposed the application complained of the general problems caused by the mining operation.

A spokesman for St. Lawrence Cement, Donald Griese, refused to comment on the hearing. He said he couldn't divulge anything to the press because no decision had been handed down by the municipal board and "there's no information yet."

Griese, the superintendent of industrial relations at the Mississauga plant, indicated that he didn't believe the company's application was of public interest.

Charge man with arson

A Toronto man has been arrested and charged with arson in connection with a fire on Constitution Blvd. in Mississauga.

Peel police said an officer was dispatched to a fire at 3050 Constitution Blvd., where a townhouse was under construction.

Corey Phillip Turner, 21, who was standing nearby, was arrested.

Damage to the partially-built townhouse is estimated at about \$5,000.

ETHICS

Proposed bylaw outlines code for city employees

By JOHN STEWART

A bylaw to set up a code of ethics for city employees — covering such areas as financial conflicts, disclosure of confidential information and restrictions on working during election campaigns — has been presented for consideration of city councillors.

The bylaw was presented by city solicitor Basil Clark to general committee this week, but was deferred because of the length of the committee's agenda.

The solicitor says that if council passes the bylaw it would be the first of its kind in the province, although several other municipalities are drafting such bylaws.

The introduction of the item at this time has nothing to do with the calling of the provincial inquiry into affairs at city hall, Clark said. He added that the bylaw had been planned before mayor Martin Dobkin brought the misconduct allegations to council's attention. Any recommendations on conduct of employees by the inquiry could be included in the bylaw later.

The solicitor said the bylaw was not in its final form and several improvements could be made before it is finally passed.

The proposed bylaw states employees shall inform their superiors of any personal or financial conflicts with their official duties. Employees shall not engage in business or financial dealings which may conflict with official civic duties; be placed in a position where they are under obligation to give preferential treatment to

any individual; give such preferential treatment; place themselves in a position where they could derive benefit from influencing decisions; benefit or appear to benefit from information not available to the general public; engage in outside work which might affect their civic duties; demand or accept any reward for their actions, unless written consent has been received from the city manager; or accept "sporadic or casual benefits such as small gifts or entertainment" without the manager's written consent.

Under the confidentiality section, employees would not be allowed to disclose any secret or confidential city business to any member of the public. They also would not be allowed to reveal sources of information acquired by the city except to "duly authorized persons," or use any information gained through their jobs for their own or anyone else's financial benefit.

The third section of the proposed bylaw deals with elections. It forbids employees from working for the election of any city councillor, or collecting money for campaigns of councillors.

It requires employees seeking election for federal or provincial public office to request a leave of absence without pay until the election is over. If elected, the employee must resign from his city position.

The leave of absence will be granted "if the usefulness to the (city) government of the employee in the position he then occupies would not be impaired by reason of his having been a candidate for election."

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Plaza bid stalled for 6th time

The Lillian Freedman application for a shopping centre in Mississauga Valley

remains unresolved after council's planning committee's sixth attempt to deal with it.

The issue has been referred for further negotiations between city planning staff, the developer and ratepayers. An open-ended motion passed by the committee endorsed a reduced level of commercial development, as well as some degree of townhousing.

The application is for a shopping centre on 3.1 acres of land at the southeast corner of Mississauga Valley Blvd. and Bloor St.

Area ratepayers feel their area has more than enough commercial development, although it is far below the ratio of 1.25 acres of commercial land per 1,000 people.

Square One shopping centre, however, is located just beyond the neighborhood.

A compromise proposal by the developer for a single-storey commercial building of 25,000 square feet on two acres of land and townhouses on the remaining acre has been rejected by the residents. They say the ratio should be 2:1 for townhouses compared to commercial.

"A plaza of two or three small stores would be acceptable," said Al Hunnington of the Mississauga Valley East Homeowners' Association. He said the ratepayers were still willing to negotiate with the developer and staff despite several failures at compromise to date.

Planning commissioner Russ Edmunds, who has recommended approval of the total shopping centre on the site, was opposed to the developer's revised proposal.

for the two acres of plaza and one acre of townhouses. He said over-development of the site would result.

He forecast that unless a compromise was reached, either the developer or the ratepayers would appeal any decision by the city to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Several councillors disagreed about the strength of the city's legal position. Frank McKechnie of Ward 5 said that every indication by council to date had supported commercial development. "We're in a very poor legal position" if the developer appeals a decision, he said.

But councillor Mary Helen Spence said she was "not afraid of going to the OMB and saying that the official plan designations in the past were wrong."

"Some of the standards of the past, such as parkland, have been questioned," echoed councillor Hazel McCallion. "Maybe it's the same with the commercial."

No matter what the result of this latest round of negotiations over the Freedman application, the matter will go directly to general committee or council, and not back to planning committee.

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Man faces theft charges

A motorcycle which was stolen in Mississauga, stripped and repainted, has been recovered after Ontario Provincial Police near Owen Sound stopped a rider on a routine check.

Police said the new 175-cc bike, valued at \$800, was stolen from a parking crate in an underground parking lot at 100 Dundas St. E. The serial numbers had been removed and license plates stolen from another motorcycle attached, police said.

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OPP near Owen Sound checked out a suspicious motorcycle with the Peel Regional Police Auto Squad, and a youth was arrested on charges of theft of the bike and license plates.

Gregory Scott Ionita, 18, of 3389 Kelowna Court has been charged with the theft of the motorcycle and license plates. He will appear in court on June 17.

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