

HAULING THE HOSE: Tanker 15 firefighter makes tracks to beat a blaze



PETER POWER, TORONTO STAR

Firefighter Brent Kocher, off Milton's Tanker 15, hauls a hoseline through the brush as he and his buddies battle a fire north of the rail tracks west of Fifth Line. The blaze, apparently started by a freight train, was contained with the help of crews from surrounding areas.

MOUNTSBERG QUARRY

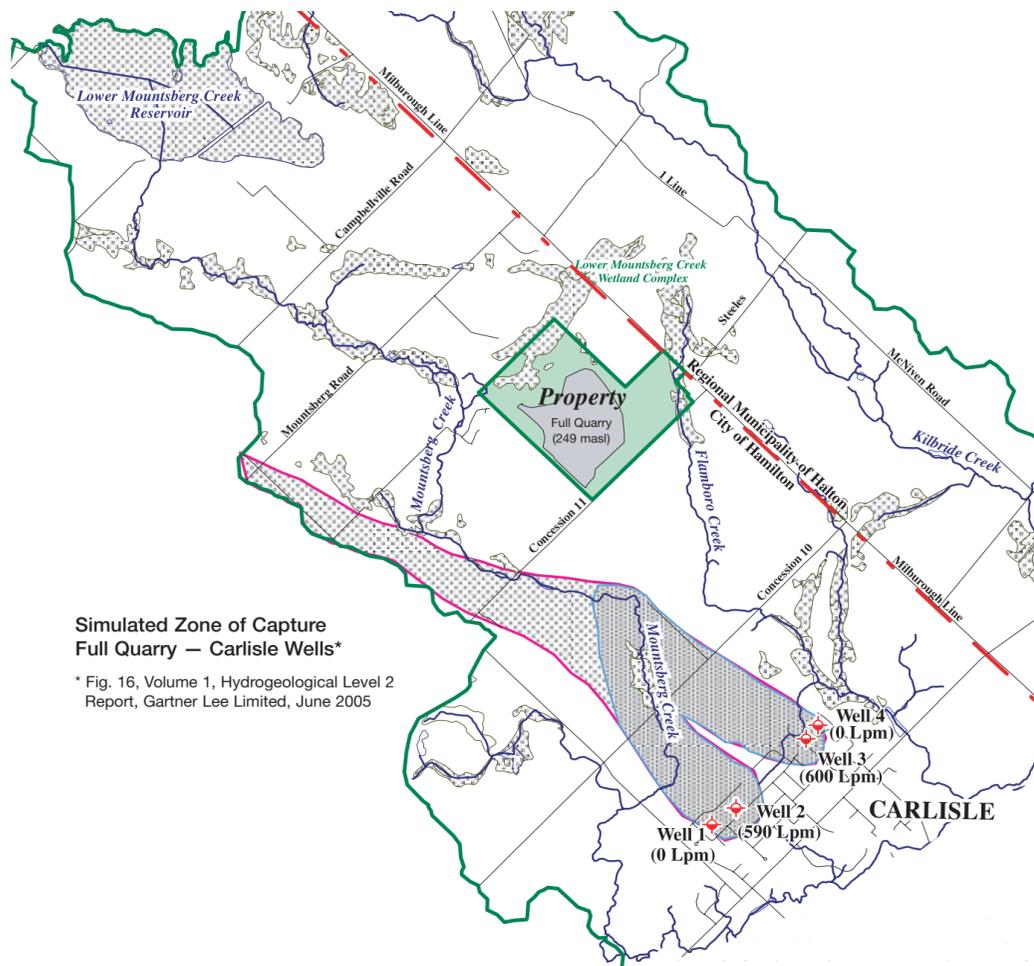
THE PROPOSED MOUNTSBERG QUARRY

An Update of Fact

The City of Hamilton Peer Review Team for the proposed Mountsberg Quarry in East Flamborough has been retained and funded. It has completed an initial site visit and is currently reviewing formal documentation for the dolostone quarry.

Lowndes Holdings Corp., the proponent, acknowledges that water is one of the primary considerations.

Documents submitted to the peer review team show that: **the quarry, even without mitigation, will not affect the Carlisle municipal wells.***



Simulated Zone of Capture Full Quarry — Carlisle Wells*

* Fig. 16, Volume 1, Hydrogeological Level 2 Report, Gartner Lee Limited, June 2005

Anyone seeking additional information is invited to contact:

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Bars fear bike club play won't beat smoking ban

City pulls business licences:
There are no second chances

BY JACQUIE DE ALMEIDA

Hamilton bar owners who bought private club memberships to get around the city's smoking bylaw fear for their future after the city pulled the business licences of two taverns.

Fifteen bars hoped being part of the Heritage Bicycle Club of North America, a registered nonprofit organization, would give them a legal loophole to circumvent the bylaw.

But several convictions and a \$7,000 fine imposed on an east-end bar last month have local members worried about their legal situation — and what the club will do to defend them.

At least two of the 15 bar owners affiliated with the club say they've had a hard time getting in touch with club operator Bob Plouffe. The club's website is down and Plouffe did not return The Spectator's calls for comment.

Crystal Haley, co-owner of Haley's Corner on Rymal Road East, said she paid \$3,000 to the club in annual fees and another \$1,000 for additional membership cards.

She faces eight charges under the smoking bylaw and is relying on the club to represent her in court — which, she says, is included in her annual membership fee. Haley said the suspensions are causing her to re-think the deal.

"I'm worried I'm not going to get my money's worth," Haley said. "I'm worried I'll lose my licence, that I'm out this money and that I'll be fined."

Bar 56 owner Elizabeth Rausz told The Spectator she thought her affiliation with the club would help her.

Her comments came Wednesday after the city's licensing committee suspended her licence for two weeks and also slapped a 30-day suspension on Da-Nite Tavern on Queenston Road.

A court convicted Bar 56 in absentia when legal representation supplied by the club failed to show up for court.

The Da-Nite does not belong to the bicycle club, but also tried to avoid the bylaw with private-club status.

The owner of the Prince Edward Tavern said she has been in contact with Plouffe, who reassured her about her legal position.

Erika Tzvetonova paid the club \$1,500 to become a member and another \$10,000 for additional membership cards.

About 300 customers are members of the club and she is adamant about their right to smoke.

But she became concerned about her affiliation with the club after reading about the suspensions. She said she can't afford to close her doors if the city pulls her licence.

"It's a big risk that we've taken in the name of smokers. But I trust Bob because somehow I think he's going to represent us," Tzvetonova said, adding she has never had trouble reaching Plouffe.

Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla, who chairs the licensing committee, said the city won't back down. Health inspectors will continue to lay charges and bars and restaurants breaching the bylaw will have their business licences suspended.

"There are no second chances. We're not in the mood to play games," Merulla added.

Provincial legislation that kicks in June 1, 2006, will ban private smoking clubs altogether.

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Officer assaulted approaching scene of QEW car accident

BY DANA BORCEA

Police say a Burlington OPP officer was assaulted when he approached the scene of a car accident yesterday morning.

A black Pontiac sedan crashed into the centre median on the QEW westbound lane near Appleby Line in Burlington, at about 8:45 a.m.

When the officer approached the vehicle to check on the occupants, a male in the front passenger seat struck him in the face, said police.

The passenger then got out of the car and continued to assault the officer, police report.

Several passing motorists stopped their cars to help the officer.

Both the male passenger and the officer were taken to Jo Brant hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Charges are pending.

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