

Presentation to City Council
on
Dolime Mediation Update

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Reasons for Concerns about Drinking Water

- The City of Guelph pumps water from the Middle Gasport aquifer which underlies the quarry.
- In the area in and around the quarry the Vinemount aquitard restricts vertical movement of water downward to the aquifer from the surface.
- Excavation in the Dolime Quarry removed the Vinemount aquitard over a portion of the Quarry.

Threats to Drinking Water from Dolime Quarry

- During active extraction with dewatering there are no threats to Guelph City wells
- After closure, if there is not continued dewatering, a lake will be formed.
- Seepage downward from the lake will enter the aquifer and travel to the pumping well.

What is not yet known

- How effective was the Vinemount aquifer in restricting the movement of contaminants to the aquifer before it was breached?
- Would excavating all of the Vinemount aquitard before Quarry closure have an appreciable effect on risk to drinking water after the Quarry is closed ?
- Would the presence of a permanent lake in the restored Quarry add any appreciable risk to Guelph's drinking water ?
- What options are available to reduce seepage to the Middle Gasport aquifer from a lake if seepage was a problem ?

What has not been Considered

- Quarry lakes fed by groundwater have few water quality problems.
- Lakes in closed quarries are often a central feature in a landscaped park.
- Butchard Gardens and Queen Elizabeth Park are two examples from British Columbia.

Barriers to development on the Dolime Site

- Expands the developed area of the City into countryside beyond the current City boundaries.
- Represents low-density development at the outer fringe of the City when intensification of walkable communities in growth corridors is essential to future viability.
- Is not transit friendly or suited to self-contained mixed use development.
- Site is isolated by Speed River, Hanlon Expressway, Quarry face.

River System Management Plan Vision

The City's Water Pollution Control Plant is located west of Hanlon Expressway on the north side of the River. Dominion Limestone - DoLime - a limestone quarry operates on the south side of the River. When its use ceases, this site has the potential of being developed as one of the major destinations on the river system which could accommodate both dramatically landscaped parkland as well as carefully designed and integrated private development.

A Groundscaper Hotel or Garden ?

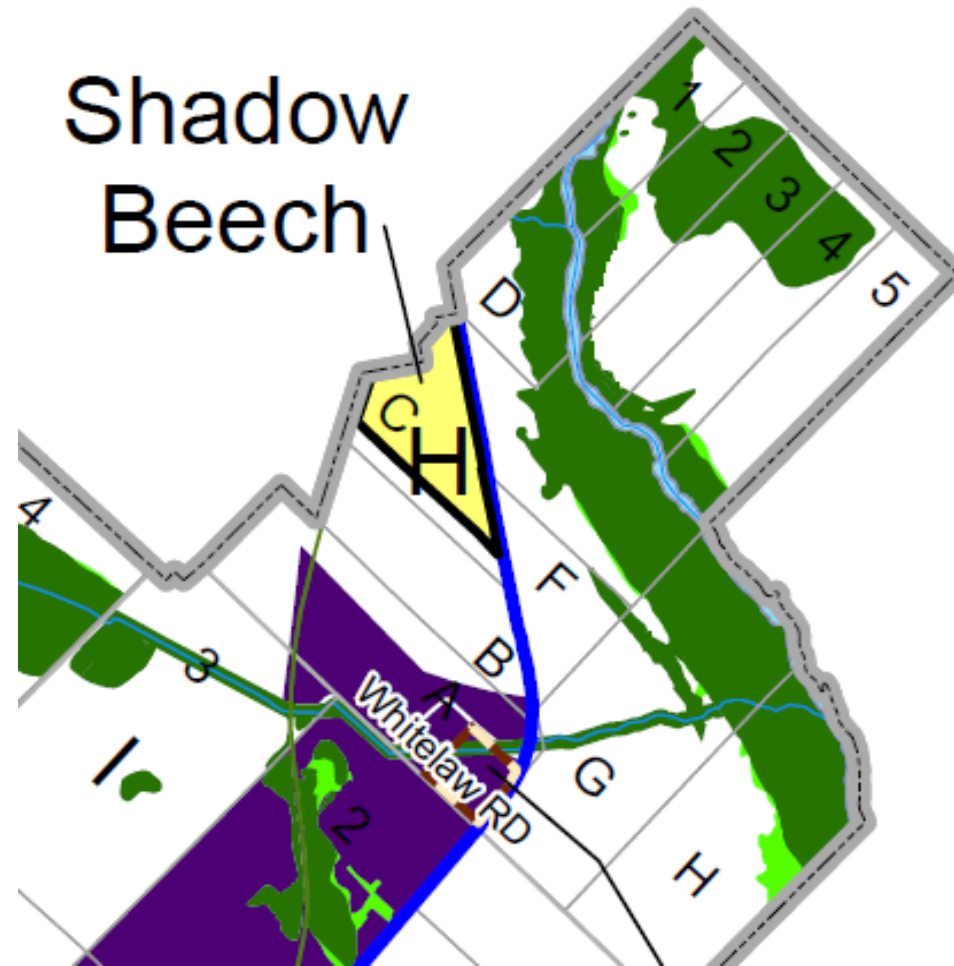


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Figure 1: A) Site of the limestone quarry at Butchart Gardens. B) One of the main Butchart gardens in Spring

Wellington County Official Plan Vision



Concerns about process

- Permitting issue creating a problem is intended to be dealt with in a transparent process based on fact-based decision making.
- Neither the MECP process or the Municipal Act allow the City to conduct confidential discussions with parties involved or advance the decision-making of Council in Closed Meetings.
- The Environmental Assessment suggested as the next step cannot be conducted in the proposed form as it is contrary to the Environmental Assessment Act.