



## Concerned Residents Coalition

### Media Release

# CRC Applauds Halton Hills Council on Motion Questioning Provincial Aggregate Policy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2015...The municipal Council for the Town of Halton Hills passed a motion at its meeting on Monday evening, April 13, requesting that “the Ontario Government amend the Provincial Policy Statement and the Aggregate Resources Act to require aggregate extraction proponents to demonstrate need for the particular supply of resource proposed for extraction.”

The Concerned Residents Coalition applauds this questioning of the Ontario Public Policy Statement which, since 2005, has eliminated the requirement for aggregate project proponents to demonstrate need for new aggregate sources leading to an increasing number of contested aggregate pit and quarry sites across southern Ontario. In these contentious cases, citizen and municipal priorities are trumped by provincial policy, a policy which is equally at odds with other provincial priorities.

Doug Tripp, President of the CRC, responded to the Halton Hills motion, saying: “Your resolution to take the matter to the Province is right on the mark in our estimation. There is no question that the skewed policy framework that exists in Ontario has given rise to these quarry and pit battles that besiege so much of Southern Ontario – which the Province clearly needs to address.”

In introducing the motion, Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette referred to some of the submissions to the current review of the Aggregate Resources Act, including the David Suzuki Foundation, the Canadian Environmental Law Society and Gravelwatch Ontario, all of whom called for the reinstatement of proof of need for aggregate.

Mayor Bonnette concluded: “The proposed Motion...seeks to level the playing field and lead to having more comprehensive planning for individual extraction sites that is transparent, shows justification and need, and results in more sustainable use of aggregate resources.”

The Mayor has been very vocal about this issue. In a recent speech to the Acton BIA, he said, “You can’t sit on your hands for this one.”

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## Concerned Residents Coalition

The Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC), a large grassroots group based in Rockwood, Ontario, and representing residents in Guelph Eramosa Township, Halton Region, Milton and Halton Hills, has been assessing the potential impacts of the so-called "Hidden Quarry", proposed by James Dick Construction Limited on Highway 7 just East of Rockwood and West of Halton Hills. Among the impacts would be an additional 26 heavy gravel trucks an hour driving through Halton Hills over an indefinite number of years, adding to an already serious truck traffic issue in the heart of the Town.

The proposed site is on the boundary of Guelph Eramosa Township (GET) and Milton, and also, therefore, on the boundary between Wellington County and Halton Region. All these stakeholders are assessing the application, but it is GET which must make the decision whether or not to re-zone prime agricultural and hazardous land to industrial/extractive. The site is in the middle of agricultural and environmentally sensitive land and just across the highway from the Green Belt at the headwaters of major rivers feeding the Grand River Watershed.

Media contact: Linda Sword [lsword@xplornet.ca](mailto:lsword@xplornet.ca) 519-853-1896

[www.hiddenquarry.ca](http://www.hiddenquarry.ca)

Attachment: Halton Hills Motion April 13, 2015



TOWN OF  
**HALTON HILLS**  
*Working Together Working for You!*

**THE CORPORATION  
OF  
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS**

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Moved by: Rick Bonetto Date: April 13, 2015  
Seconded by: Jim Hurst Resolution No.: \_\_\_\_\_

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WHEREAS a license application under the Aggregate Resources Act and a Zoning By-law Amendment application under the Planning Act has been submitted by James Dick Construction Limited for the proposed Hidden Quarry located on the north side of Highway 7, in the Township of Guelph/Eramosa;

AND WHEREAS a primary concern for Town of Halton Hills Council is an increase in truck traffic through the urban areas of the municipality (~~ie. Acton~~) as it is anticipated, but not demonstrated, that the Greater Toronto Area will be the principal market for materials extracted from the proposed quarry;

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AND WHEREAS it is widely acknowledged that extracting aggregates from the landscape is an intrusive activity that has the potential to cause long-term impacts on publicly important environmental resources and farmland; increases in traffic congestion, road damage, and greenhouse gas emissions; and degrade the quality of life of local communities;

AND WHEREAS in 2005 the Provincial Policy Statement was amended to allow aggregate producers to propose extraction sites without having to demonstrate the need for the additional supply of aggregate resources, thereby creating a barrier to comprehensive planning and favouring the protection of aggregate extraction at the expense of other provincial interests, and as a result encouraging the rapid and non-sustainable use of the resource;

AND WHEREAS applications for licences under the current Aggregate Resources Act do not require proponents to demonstrate need to extract aggregate resources in a particular area;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Halton Hills Council request that the Ontario Government amend the Provincial Policy Statement and the Aggregate Resources Act to require aggregate extraction proponents to demonstrate need for the particular supply of resource proposed for extraction;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Provincial Opposition Party leaders, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Halton Region, the Town of Oakville, the City of Burlington, the Town of Milton, Michael Chong - Wellington-Halton Hills MP, Ted Arnott - Wellington Halton Hills MPP, FCM and AMO.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Bonnette", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Rick Bonnette

## Speaking Notes – Hidden Quarry Motion

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- As Councillors and many members of the public will know, for the past two years staff have been bringing forward reports to this Council about the Hidden Quarry proposal in Rockwood, just the other side of Highway 7 from Halton Hills near Acton.
- Council has been carefully monitoring the James Dick application and is aware of the many concerns raised by Rockwood and Halton Hills residents, including:
  - the negative impacts on well water and significant wetlands;
  - the impacts on quality of life from blasting, noise, dust, and reduced air quality;
  - the impacts from increased noise, dust, congestion, road damage and reduced road safety along the haul routes; and
  - the reduction of their property values.
- Although the proposed quarry site is not located within Halton Hills, its impacts, including the impacts along the potential haul routes through Halton Hills, will be directly felt by many Halton Hills residents.
- Municipalities have little authority to question where proponents decide to put their pits and quarries. The recently reviewed Provincial Policy Statement and the currently under review Aggregate Resources Act provide no basis for municipalities to question whether the aggregates from a proposed site are even needed.
- During the recent provincial review of the Aggregate Resources Act, the David Suzuki Foundation, Canadian Environmental Law Association and Gravel Watch Ontario made submissions raising this as a matter that should be corrected.
- In fact, in 2005 the Provincial Policy Statement was amended to explicitly indicate that proponents are not required to demonstrate that there is a need for the particular aggregate they propose to extract from the site.
- Although the current Aggregate Resources Act allows for the Minister to assess the overall provincial demand for aggregate, it does not require consideration of how a particular proposed extraction site may or may not contribute to meeting demand. So there is no justification that the extraction site is even needed.
- As a result, current provincial rules are weighted in favour of siting of aggregate extraction sites at the expense of other provincial interests such as protecting groundwater and natural heritage and building healthy, safe communities.
- The proposed Motion I have put before you seeks to level the playing field and lead to having more comprehensive planning for individual extraction sites that is transparent, shows justification and need, and results in more sustainable use of aggregate resources.