



Working to protect your community and environment

CRC Continues to Work to STOP the Hidden Quarry at home, and on the policy front and...

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Now that the Wingfield Gala is a happy memory, it is time to get back down to brass tacks and bring everyone up to date on the serious work CRC is doing to make sure no virtual stone is left unturned in our efforts to prevent any actual stones being turned. A quarry in this location and in this unique natural environment presents too many risks to justify approval.

Since the first OMB Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) in November, the CRC Board has been working on two important fronts all winter: **GRCA's** study of the Hidden Quarry and the proposed expansion of the **Greenbelt**. **We're also looking ahead to April 5, the next OMB PHC.**

IN A NUTSHELL...

Regarding the importance of GRCA's review:

- GRCA is reviewing JDCL's responses to the questions they raised about the new zoning and official plan amendment applications.
- CRC has submitted a report to GRCA prepared by our experts Dr. Emil Frind and Garry Hunter based on their assessment of JDCL's new information.
- Wellington County and GET decisions on the applications are waiting for advice from GRCA.
- This may or may not be on the agenda of the next GRCA Board meeting March 23.

And, regarding the Greenbelt expansion question:

- CRC has submitted a letter emphasizing the importance of protecting Ontario's moraines from aggregate extraction because of their critical importance in providing water supplies, and our concern that the Greenbelt does not currently sufficiently protect moraines that fall within its boundaries.

Here's the full story.

Grand River Conservation Authority

1. In April 2016, as you will recall, the GRCA re-opened the Hidden Quarry file. In the first run to the OMB, GRCA had effectively, to our consternation, 'signed off', stating no objections to the quarry after an initial flurry of questions.
2. Last year, after a major CRC presentation about the risks inherent in the proposed quarry, and given that Wellington County was now involved in assessing JDCL's 'new' application, GRCA recommended to Wellington County, Guelph Eramosa Township and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry that the application be deferred until further hydrogeological studies were undertaken by JDCL. This was good news!
3. GRCA sent a series of questions to JDCL. The first incomplete response from JDCL came, to our knowledge, in September, and more responses have been dribbling in, right up to last week.
4. CRC's hydrogeologists, Garry Hunter and Dr. Emil Frind, have been analysing these responses, keeping up with the constant injections of new information, and last week, we were able to submit their comprehensive analysis to GRCA to ensure that our many questions and concerns were taken into consideration.
5. The GRCA Board passed a motion last spring requiring the staff to present to the Board their final report and recommendations on the Hidden Quarry application before forwarding it to the interested governments. Given the amount of material to assess and CRC's recent submission of new analysis, it is not clear how long GRCA will need to come to a conclusion.
6. GRCA's next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 23. It remains to be seen if a staff report will be ready at that time. If a report is presented, the Board may require some time to assess the conclusion. Either way, there is limited time before the second OMB PHC (April 5), for experts for the Parties to the OMB including CRC, Wellington, GET and Halton Region to assess the new information. We do not know if this will further delay the OMB schedule.

Significance of GRCA decision: The GRCA decision will strongly influence both Wellington County and GET who have stated that they are waiting for this report before stating a position on the hydrogeological aspects of the Hidden Quarry application. For this reason the CRC Board has invested in these serious expert reviews – bringing all the weight of our concerns to bear in the GRCA deliberations.

\$\$\$ FUNDING: GRCA’s new interest in the HQ proposal is exciting, but the work of our consultants comes with a price tag. We will be putting out a call to CRC supporters for major donations again in preparation for the OMB Hearing for which we must raise \$300,000. For now, although we do have funds in the bank, we do not have enough for the full process ahead of us. If you are able to consider making a special donation towards the essential new work undertaken this winter to present a case to GRCA for protection of the HQ site, it would make a big difference. The cost for this new work has totalled at least \$60,000. \$\$\$

Greenbelt Expansion

In the fall the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Bill Mauro, sent out a document entitled “Protecting Water for Future Generations: Growing the Greenbelt in the Outer Ring” (attached). As you know the Greenbelt in our area is bordered by Hwy. 7, just across from the proposed Hidden Quarry site. An extended Greenbelt would include the site in large part because it is in the Paris Galt Moraine.

The map gives you the full picture of the ‘study area’ for expansion. You will see the light blue shading towards the bottom of the map – This is the Paris-Galt Moraine...and at its northeastern tip you can see our location near the Eramosa River just north of the Greenbelt green/Milton and East of Guelph.

The CRC has made a formal submission on the proposed expansion, arguing that one of the reasons the Hidden Quarry proposal is problematic is because it is located in a moraine, one of nature’s most effective, efficient and irreplaceable water filtering gifts, which should be protected.

While you might think that the Greenbelt would protect ‘our’ moraine from aggregate mining, it does not. In the existing Greenbelt, as in the Niagara Escarpment Plan region and even the Oak Ridges Moraine, quarries are specifically permitted, with assessments little more or no more stringent than the process we are living with Hidden Quarry. The province has made aggregate the priority, especially ‘close to market’.

CRC has responded to the request for submissions on the Greenbelt study area. We have highlighted the fact that water resources for future generations are not protected if moraines are not protected. We have indicated that the priority must be water given the population growth expected in the Grand River Watershed, projected to increase from 800,000 to 1.5 million in 2051. We have therefore not endorsed expanding the Greenbelt without exemption from aggregate mining in all moraines.

Our response is attached, as is the public consultation document.

Please do not hesitate to ask questions.

With your support, we will win!

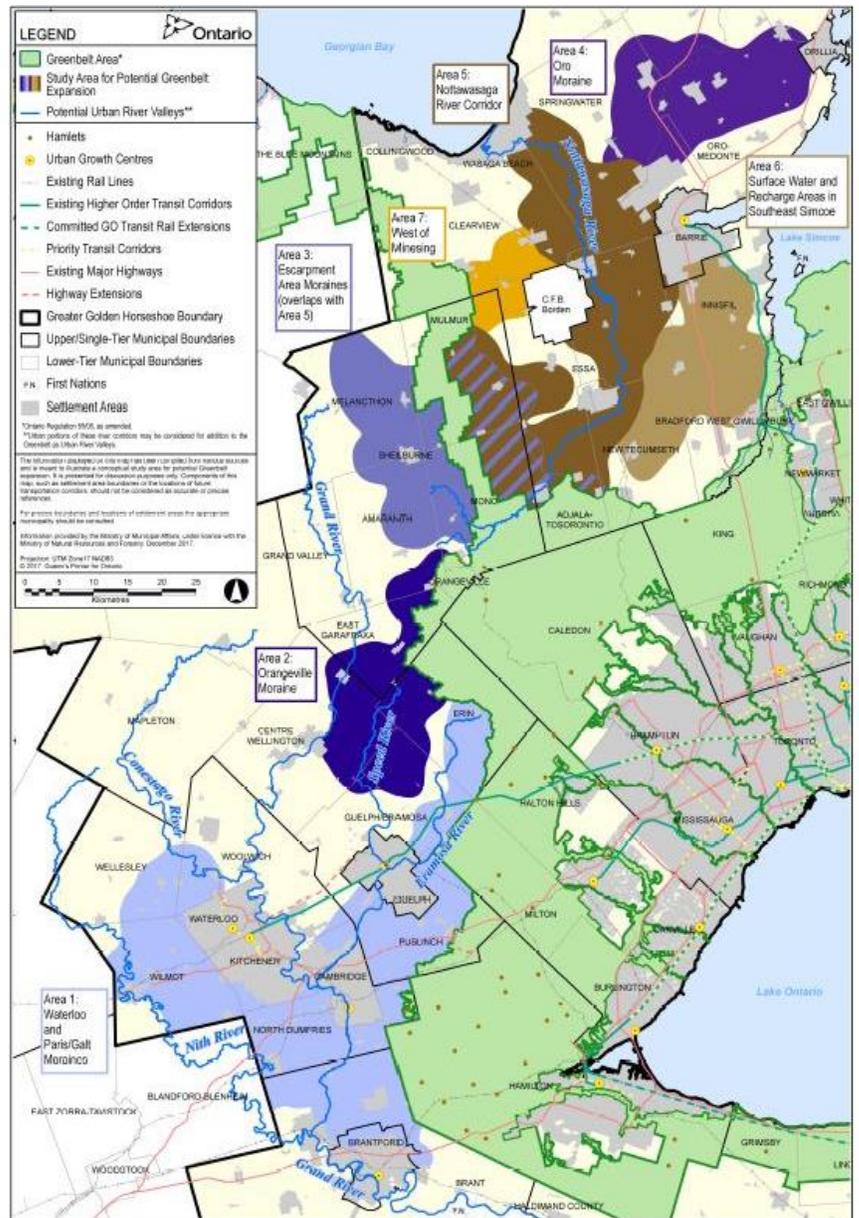


Figure 4: Study Area for Potential Greenbelt Expansion