



Media Release

Hidden Quarry Interim Decision Puts Profits over People

The Local Planning Appeals Tribunal (LPAT) interim decision on Tuesday February 11 approved James Dick Construction Limited's application for re-zoning and a licence to mine aggregate at the Hidden Quarry in Rockwood. This flawed decision reveals that Ontario's self-proclaimed "Government for the People" puts higher priority on the profits of aggregate companies than the integrity of rural communities and eco-systems. This interim decision, if approved by Minister Yakabuski will yield millions of dollars in profits for James Dick Construction Ltd.

The Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC) will do everything possible to make John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry reject the LPAT interim decision on the Hidden Quarry and intervene to protect the water, the environment and our community for generations to come.

The Ontario government does not need the Hidden Quarry. Ontario's 7000+ licenced pits and quarries represent an existing 50-100-year supply of aggregate. James Dick Construction Ltd is typical of many aggregate operators who move from site to site chasing current markets, while allowing licenced quarry operations to sit idle and unrehabilitated. The future demand for aggregate will also decline as reductions in cement production and highway construction will be required to reduce carbon emissions to mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis. (Cement production produces 8% of the world's carbon emissions.)

The community and environment bear all the risks from blasting, truck traffic, and degradation of domestic and municipal wells due to the Hidden Quarry.

CRC President Doug Tripp states: "The Hidden Quarry will devastate our community. It will change forever the lives and livelihoods of residents, and the character of the neighbouring town of Rockwood. It will put at risk the drinking water. It will add danger and toxic dust to our local roads and towns along the haul routes. It is the "foot in the door" for more quarries to come such as in the adjacent 200-acre parcel recently purchased by JDCL and other lands to the south of the quarry site including Milton, Eden Mills, Campbellville and Crewson's Corners to the east. Several species already at risk, including the endangered Little Brown Bat, will be threatened. Altogether it is a dangerous intrusion into our rural community and its complex eco-system."

CRC Board member Linda Sword responded to the Decision: "It is unconscionable that the tribunal decision matter-of-factly acknowledges that a generation of area residents will have to live with this disruption simply because the tribunal thinks it's ok."



Working to Protect your Community and Environment

The Hidden Quarry decision relies on JDCL to establish and maintain a complex monitoring system to offset all the risks involved in blasting 23 metres below the water table into the fractured rock and Paris Galt Moraine land situated between upstream wetlands; downstream brook trout habitat; private well water; and one of Rockwood's municipal wells.

JDCL's track record includes the disastrous piercing of the aquitard at the Dolime Quarry in Guelph. MNRF has neither the capacity nor the will to enforce compliance with appropriate operational standards in the aggregate industry. This will force upon residents and the municipality the burden to protect for decades the safety and health of community and local businesses.

The Hidden Quarry case proves the failure of the LPAT system. The Local Planning Appeals Tribunal hearing process, (formerly OMB) is **designed to produce decisions that favour aggregate companies**. The LPAT hearing process empowers a single arbitrator to simply "prefer" the evidence aggregate companies present to that of community needs.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette said, "I feel we simply weren't listened to by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. There's no sense in appealing to the LPAT. They're just going to support development."

The Concerned Residents Coalition calls on the Ontario government to intervene immediately and:

- Put the Hidden Quarry decision on hold;
- Impose an immediate moratorium on all quarry applications in Ontario;
- Convene an emergency summit for a comprehensive consultation with all stakeholders on impact of aggregate extraction on integrity of communities and ecosystems.

The Concerned Residents Coalition Board of Directors raised more than \$800,000 to make the best submission possible to the LPAT hearing.

To read the full statement of the Concerned Residents Coalition go to the [CRC website](#).

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