

Mike Schreiner unhappy with LPAT's ruling on Hidden Quarry

a day ago By: GuelphToday Staff



Guelph MPP and Ontario Green Party leader Mike Schreiner speaks at the U of G. Tony Saxon/GuelphToday file photo

MPP Mike Schreiner criticized the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal's (LPAT) decision to rule in favour of Hidden Quarry applicant James Dick Construction Ltd.

Yesterday, the LPAT released a decision ruling in favour of opening a 61.5-acre quarry at Highway 7 and 6th Line outside Rockwood. Schreiner pointed out the impact on residents who had been working for years as opponents to the quarry.

"This is a devastating decision for citizens in Halton Hills and Wellington County who have worked so hard to defend a precious resource - the water we drink," Schreiner said in a press release. "Nothing is more important than protecting the long-term supply of our drinking water, and yet Ontario's weak aggregate and water-taking rules continue to put private profits first."

The seven month wait for a decision came after an eight-week long tribunal in July 2019. Local governments and residents raised issues with the site such as a negative impact on local wildlife, debris from blasting and groundwater contamination. Schreiner said he put forward the Paris Galt Moraine Conservation Act to put projects such as the Hidden Quarry under more strict evaluation.

"If my private member's bill was passed, then projects like this would be assessed under a much more rigorous land-use planning framework that puts food and water first," he said in a press release. "Without such a framework, we are allowing industrial pressures on our water supply to pile up, on top of drought and other threats brought on by climate change."

The decision is likely final because further appeals can only be made based on errors in law made by the tribunal.

Schreiner also expressed his gratitude for resident action and reiterated his environmental support.

"I want to thank the local governments and citizens who spent time and money opposing this quarry and protecting our water and communities," he said in a press release. "I will continue to support people pushing for stronger laws to protect the natural environment that gives us the water we drink."

Comments (5)

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D

[Dover](#) a day ago

People want more housing, more and better roads, bigger shopping malls, rail lines, airports etc.... But when it comes time to mine the necessary materials for these bold projects, the whining begins. Lol.

O

[Ofcourse](#) a day ago

It sounds like MPP Mike Schreiner is not only living in dream Land, he also wants a basic thing like sand and gravel to cost a lot more money.

Not very positive or insightful at all.

Other than he's saying he's against a quarry he isn't recommending an alternative. So is this Green party against roads and houses?

Tell us your plan MPP Mike Schreiner.

SS

[Steve Spyderman](#) a day ago

Put your \$\$\$ where your mouth is Mike. Stop using roads or rail that use gravel beds, do not live anywhere that has gravel in it's foundation. So enjoy your shack in the woods...
And when is the 'Green' party going to stop using plastic signs that go in the landfill, because they are currently NOT recyclable in Guelph...

RC

[Robert Carley](#) about 22 hours ago

There are sufficient existing quarries in Ontario to supply all of the needs for gravel, stone, crushed rock, etc. There is just no need for new ones that endanger the water supply of rural residents. This is not a gravel pit - this will be an open pit mine, blasting below the water table. So, how about you naysayers learn more about the proposed quarry, before you start criticizing those who tried to stop it, and those who are against it. Your spiteful arguments reflect the current state of discourse - spew forth bile, anger, insults, instead of rational arguments.

O

[Ofcourse](#) about 21 hours ago

Yeah, you're probably right. There enough coffee shops too. So we should stop people from opening any more of them. They use up a lot of water. And people drive to them.
Would that be ok?

S

[SusanR](#) about 17 hours ago

The commenters above live in a dreamland where they will be hungry without food and thirsty without water. The quarry will destroy both excellent farmland and damage our water supply. We do not need more roads, we need good local food. Thanks to Mike Schreiner for defending our future.