



THE HIDDEN QUARRY LPAT DECISION

Hidden Quarry Decision Reveals Ontario Government Puts Profits over People



The CRC Board met last week to assess our situation following the negative LPAT decision and to begin to strategize about the steps we can take to keep the issues of the Hidden Quarry, the decision-making process and aggregate policy in general in the spotlight. You can imagine it was a “hot” meeting, every emotion possible on the table. Every board member was present (Harry Wilson on Skype from Monserrat!). The wonderful Carol Solomon brought piles of delicious cookies (and another \$500 from her bottle collecting!) In some ways, and ironically, it was great to feel that old buzz around the table.

One of the other good things about last week, terrible as it was, was the **flood of warm and encouraging messages** we received from you, the CRC community. Thank you for this and all your support over the years.

There are many reasons why this quarry should never have been approved. Our very first thoughts are, however, with the immediate ‘neighbours’ of the quarry site...the homes and farms and businesses for whom this monstrosity will literally be in their backyards and front yards, in their air and ears and foundations and on their roads. Their [participant statements](#) tell the story. For this reason, we will not acquiesce quietly.

The CRC board will not stop now.

Today we have taken the first step in bringing our official reactions to this “bad” decision to the public. There will be more actions to come. And we will be needing your help again!

This morning a media release has hit the airwaves and with it our formal CRC Statement. These will have been received by our media list and all local politicians.



You will find both the full Decision and our CRC Statement attached. Take a few deep breaths and sit down with a tall cup of coffee when you read the decision.

Decision by Scott Tousaw, LPAT adjudicator:

“There is no question that a quarry will result in some disruption to the area during its operation. A generation will grow up during this time when, compared to today, there will be regular blasting and more noise and trucks.”

I gave the Board all the comments, no expletives deleted! Here’s a little list of the multitude of descriptive reactions which came our way:

“Speechless, so sad, huge shock, profoundly sad, so sorry, upset, profoundly disappointed, frankly surprised, shattering, angry, very, very upsetting, discouraging, disheartening, devastating, unjust, stunned, dismayed, heartsick, gut-wrenching, outraged, appalled, horrific, travesty, gobsmacked...”

CRC Statement:

“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...While the community and environment take all the risks, JDCL will take millions of dollars of profit from extracting aggregate.”

What’s the Timetable? When can JDCL start blasting?

Although the LPAT adjudicator has released his decision, Wellington County and Guelph Eramosa Township have still to amend Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw. In addition, the

Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, John Yakabuski, has not yet signed off. The licence will not be finally approved by him until the many conditions the decision requires have been met. (The conditions are listed on pages 58-60 of the decision.) Among them is a requirement that GET set up the preliminary terms of reference for a Community Liaison Committee to handle day-to-day issues once the quarry operation begins. This condition was included because our experienced Planner, Mark Dorfman, foresightedly included it in his testimony at the Hearing.

It is hard to predict how long it will take for some of these conditions to be met, so there is a window of time before the Minister can approve and the quarry operation start. In addition, even after the approval is final, JDCL will have to meet conditions relating to further archeological study and monitoring set out at the Hearing which will require some more real time.

In the meantime CRC will continue to voice our objections to this process which forced our community and environmental concerns to take a back seat to aggregate business interests.

CRC has some demands to make.

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 the integrity of communities and ecosystems.

Here's how you can help right now:

- Read CRC's Statement.
- Write a letter to your local newspaper/s – short and focussed.
- Stay tuned for guidelines for letters you can send to MPP's.
- Attend GET Council for an upcoming CRC delegation – watch for details.
- Stay tuned for a CRC Community Meeting.

All relevant media releases are posted on the [website](#). Some quotes from last week.

Rick Bonnette Mayor Halton Hills

"It is ridiculous that the Town cannot have any say over designated haul routes," Mayor Rick Bonnette said in a prepared release. "It is unacceptable that our municipality will suffer the negative impacts of quarry operations that do nothing for our community particularly when there hasn't even been a demonstrated need for yet another quarry operation."

Mike Schreiner MPP Guelph

"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."

Ted Arnott MPP Wellington

"While I realize many people will be disappointed with the LPAT's decision, as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly I cannot make public statements expressing an opinion on issues that are being debated or are likely to be debated in the house."

Chris White Mayor Guelph Eramosa Township

"We need to go and get our legal team to have a look at the details of what is in there and what is required. The township opposed the application and we don't feel there was any benefit for the community to have this here. Clearly we are disappointed."