



Leeanna Pendergast, M.P.P.
Kitchener-Conestoga

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Let’s put Pits in their Place”

West Montrose, Ontario—June 21, 2011

MPP Leeanna Pendergast hosts a rally at the historic Kissing Bridge in West Montrose on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 to raise awareness of the need to put gravel pits in the proper places throughout the province. Pendergast is calling for a provincial review of the Aggregate Resources Act and a provincial plan for aggregates in Ontario that considers local agriculture, natural heritage and sustainable community development. She will be joined by the Hon. Donna Cansfield, former Minister of Natural Resources, representatives from neighbourhood groups concerned about aggregate, farmers and concerned citizens.

“We need new policies which reflect the current situation in our community” said MPP Leeanna Pendergast. “It is my personal commitment to call for a comprehensive review of the Aggregate Resources Act because, like many other communities across Ontario, Woolwich Township can no longer bear the pressures placed on it by the demand for aggregate – Our community is growing, and we are undervaluing the importance of our farmland and healthy communities.”

Quotes:

“I’m very concerned about the impact the gravel pits are having on our farmland. It’s time we review the Aggregate Resources Act to make sure it is fair for all Ontarians.”

-- Donna Cansfield, Member of Provincial Parliament, Etobicoke Centre

“The West Montrose Covered Bridge and the landscape around it are part of our heritage and culture. As a community we are truly proud of them and want to protect them. A large gravel pit close to the bridge and in the middle of this landscape would have a terrible impact.”

-- Tony Dowling, BridgeKeepers



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“The Waterloo Federation of Agriculture believes that prime farmland is a non-renewable natural resource and deserves recognition as a strategic resource by the province of Ontario. Prime Farmland is the foundation of a secure food supply for both current and future generations.

-- Mark Reusser (Vice-President of the Waterloo Federation of Agriculture)

“We have been fighting against the three latest gravel pit requests hoping to save and protect our wells and drinking water.”

-- Keri Martin-Vrbanac, Conestoga Winterbourne Residents Association

Key Facts:

Local Gravel Pit Applications

- In the West Montrose area, Capital Paving has submitted an application for aggregate extraction for a proposed licensed area of 41.7 hectares with an extraction of 500,000 tonnes per year. Concerns with this application include ground water, dust, noise, and truck traffic.
- In March 2009, an application was submitted by Hunder Development Inc Ltd. (Hunsberger) for a pit site license which would be 88.3 hectares in size and the proposed annual tonnage limit is 500,000 tonnes.
- As of April 2011, there are about 130 unresolved objections before the Ministry of Natural Resources with regards to the Hunsberger gravel pit.
- Ontario's population is increasing by over 150,000 people per year.
- Kuntz Topsoil Sand and Gravel Ltd applied for a pit licence in November of 2008 at 125 Peel St in Winterbourne (Jigs Hollow). The application is for a pit above the water table and the site to be licensed is 36.02 hectares with an extraction area of 17.50 ha. The proposed annual tonnage limit is 150,000 tonnes.

The Importance of Agriculture

- 6% of Ontario's landmass is prime farmland (Waterloo Federation of Agriculture)
- The Conference Board of Canada says that the food sector contributes over 8% of Canada's GDP. Food manufacturing is one of the largest



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manufacturing sectors in Canada. Food and food-related companies provide one in eight jobs.

- The Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector in Figures (2008): **\$99 billion**—The agriculture and agri-food sector accounted for 8.1% of total GDP. **2.2 million people**—The sector provided one in eight jobs in Canada. **\$38.8 billion**—Canada is the fourth-largest agriculture and agri-food exporter in the world, accounting for 5.5% of total world agriculture and agri-food exports. (Source: *Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Overview of the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food System—2009* (Ottawa: Author, 2009))

The Aggregate Industry in Ontario

- Aggregate Resources Production and Consumption in Ontario (Source: Ministry of Natural Resources)
 - Total Aggregate Consumption = 184 million tonnes (2007)
 - Primary Aggregate Consumption = 171 million tonnes (2007)
 - Recycled/Secondary Aggregates = 13 million tonnes (2007)
 - Primary Aggregate Production within Ontario = 173 million tonnes (2007)
 - Aggregate imported into Ontario = 3 million tonnes (2007)
- Government (provincial and municipal) is largest consumer (>50%)
- 60% used in road infrastructure
- Aggregates provide the basis of a \$45 billion construction industry that employs over 245,000 people in infrastructure development and renewal
- Aggregate industry employs 35,000 people (directly or indirectly) and contributes \$3.2 billion to the GDP including \$1.8 million in labour income
- International exports of aggregates and aggregate-related products are nearly \$2 billion dollars

Questions and Answers:

Q. What is an Aggregate?

A. Legally defined as sand, gravel, clay, earth, shale, stone, limestone, dolostone, sandstone, marble, granite, rock other than metallic ores, or other prescribed material.



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Q. What are the economics of the Industry?

A. The aggregate industry employs 35,000 people (directly and indirectly) and contributes \$3.2 billion to the GDP including \$1.8 million in labour income

Q. What's in a new license application?

A. Technical reports, prepared by qualified individuals, may include blast design report, noise assessment report, hydro-geological report, natural environment report, and culture heritage report

Q. What are the stages in the gravel pit application process?

A. Step 1: Preparation/Prc-consultation

Step 2: Submission

Step 3: Notification/Circulation

Step 4: Consultation

Step 5: Resolution of Objections

Step 6: Decision

NOTE: Other processes may be occurring at the same time (e.g. zoning & official plan amendments under the Planning Act). These are inherently related to the Aggregate Resource Act license decision but the processes are outside of the Ministry of Natural Resource's (MNR) control.

Q. Are lands exploited for aggregate extraction purposes rehabilitated?

A. In the February 2010, State of the Aggregate Resource in Ontario Study (MNR), an assessment of 50 licensed sites found that only 58% had begun some progressive rehabilitation. 40% have not yet started.

Q. What are the common concerns related aggregate site applications?

A. Common concerns associated with this application include negative effects to ground water, increased dust, noise, increase of truck traffic to local infrastructure, the loss of prime farmland and impact on natural heritage.



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Q. How many aggregate sites are there in Ontario?

A. In 2006, there were 2787 licensed aggregate sites on private land in Ontario. In addition, there were 3453 aggregate permits issued on crown land. Over 50% of the aggregates produced in Ontario are used by public authorities for the construction and maintenance of the public infrastructure such as roads and bridges

Approximately 85% of total aggregate production takes place in southern Ontario where the demand for aggregates and aggregate-derived products is the highest. The cost of transportation is estimated to be approximately 60% of the total cost of aggregate. Therefore, the economic value of an aggregate deposit is based not only on the quantity and quality of the deposit, but also how close the deposit is to its final destination. – Ministry of Natural Resources

Contact

Joe Brothers
Office of Leeanna Pendergast, MPP
Kitchener-Conestoga
Tel: 519-571-3276
E-mail: Lpendergast.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org