



March 29, 2022

To: Bill Steele - Mayor City of Port Colborne
Scott Luey - CAO City of Port Colborne
David Schulz - Senior Planner City of Port Colborne
All Port Colborne Councillors
City Staff

Good day to all:

I am writing in response to a letter that was attached to the March 22, 2022 City Council Agenda. The letter was from Norm Cheesman, Executive Director, Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA). Dated March 8, 2022.

RE: *"Discovering the Truth about Stone, Sand & Gravel".*

This letter was **NOT** site location specific. It was sent to all Communities in Ontario who have existing quarrying operations or quarrying licencing applications in process.

The author of the letter references OSSGA concerns regarding a "NIMBY" (Not in My Back Yard) campaign that is asking for a moratorium on all new aggregate sites. The "NIMBY" acronym is incorrect. The "DAMN" (Demand a Moratorium Now) campaign was championed by the REFORM GRAVEL MINING COALITION. <http://www.reformgravelmining.ca/>

I will be attaching to this email a response to the OSSGA concerns from Reform Gravel Mining Coalition dated March 21, 2022.

I can assure you, that everyone involved in this coalition, as I do, fully understand the need for an ***uninterrupted supply of stone, sand and gravel products*** to meet current and future demand. There is no short term thinking in this campaign. This is not a "NIMBY" group. It is a very organized, well researched and passionate public awareness group.

The DAMN campaign is about having “third party” oversight (accountability) for an industry that indiscriminately and aggressively seeks to licence locations for product or products where there already is **redundancy and over capacity**.

- An industry that ***is not required to provide proof or reason of demand*** when applying for new licences.
- An industry where most current operations have a viable production expectancy of 20 to 30 or more years.
- An industry that tries to justify the licencing of new quarrying operations by using the term “environmentally responsible” based on proximity to location demand. (reduced greenhouse gas emissions from product transportation equipment from point of origin to destination).
- An industry where the production of cement and cement related products, using mined aggregate stock, accounts for approximately 8% of emissions globally.
- An industry that continuously pumps excessive amounts of clean ground water (from underground streams, ground water seepage, surface water intrusion) to support their production processes including the dewatering of working or decommissioned pits. These pumps often run 24/7.
- An industry that toes the line when their above ground operations are in full public view but in some cases operations below public view (below ground blocked by berms, fencing) are suspect.
- An industry that often reneges on decommissioned site rehabilitation responsibilities. Rehabilitation, as a whole Provincially, is lagging.

One additional note: The OSSGA states that sand, stone, aggregate products are NOT exported. We have a location along the east side of the canal referred to as the “STONE DOCK”. Various gradations of stone from PCQ are transported there, stored there and eventually loaded onto ships. Those ships that receive this stone, transport the product to ports in the United States (Cleveland and Erie Pennsylvania). The stone dock including the loading of ships with stone product has been there for as long as I can remember.

You will find two (2) additional attachments to this letter sent via email.

The first, as previously stated will be the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition response to the OSSGA letter.

(RGMC on OSSGA.pdf)

The second will be short MP4 video. The video shows the as required daily dewatering of Pit 3 at PCQ. This vast amount of water never makes it back into the aquifer, nor is it recovered for any beneficial use. This clean ground water leaves the exit pipe as shown, flows in a southerly direction via a system of ditches and drains eventually ending in Lake Erie. Pits 1&2 also pump water out.

(Pit3 Dewatering.mp4)

Maintaining the integrity of all vulnerable water sources is everyone's responsibility. Environmental concerns are everyone's responsibility. We only get ***one chance*** to make this right. ***It is our legacy to make the right decisions.***

Respectfully,

Gary Gaverluk
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