

Dear Mayor and Council,

Gravel Watch Ontario acts in the interests of residents and communities to protect the health, safety, quality of life of Ontarians and of the natural environment in matters that relate to aggregate resources. Today, we share our comments (attached) which we have submitted to the Ontario government. It addresses several issues that concern you and communities across the province. They include the following:

- Cumulative impacts on communities of extraction industries, specifically of aggregate i.e., rock, gravel, sand, and clay;
- Preservation of prime farmland and of water resources necessary for food sustainability and renewable industries;
- Local planning to preserve natural capital through good policy, and practices;
- Resilience in the face of the twin threats of COVID-19 and climate change.

Gravel Watch Ontario recognizes the obligation of communities to protect our agricultural lands, water resources and natural environment, all of which are essential for building a climate-resilient Ontario for future generations. Gravel Watch Ontario has commented on government planning and aggregate policies for over 15 years and works with our members to ensure that policies regulating gravel extraction do not result in permanent loss of farmland or rural landscape amenities and do not damage the integrity of the water resources supplied by the rural landscape.

We thank you for your significant work on these, offer the attached to assist you, ask you to link us to local community groups facing aggregate issues, and invite you to continue this dialogue.

Sincere wishes for good health.

Bryan Smith, President

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