

# **CITIZENS AGAINST MELROSE QUARRY**

c/o 120 Melrose Road, R.R. 1 Shannonville, Ontario, K0K 3A0  
☎ 613-968-5943



March 2, 2017

## **Media Release**

In a public hearing of The Standing Committee on Justice Policy, Citizens Against Melrose Quarry (CAMQ) made an oral presentation on Bill 39, Aggregate Resources and Mining Modernization Act, 2016.

In their presentation, CAMQ members drew attention to the fact that changes proposed in Bill 39 call for protections for municipal drinking water sources, but do not provide the same protections for the 1.6 million Ontario citizens who rely on groundwater (wells) for residential and agricultural use, as pointed out in the *2016 Annual Report of the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario*.

The group called for Bill 39, and other pieces of legislation, to support the sustainable use of rural agricultural and drinking water sources, in addition to municipal water systems. They called for openness and transparency, better cross-communication between ministries, and asked that the MNRF consider other ministries' non-compliance issues when assessing aggregate licenses for compliance.

The group went on to request that the MNRF include a peer review process in its decision making; that soil study/testing be mandatory on land proposed for aggregate development that is currently growing crops; that aggregate license applications be time limited; and that funding be made available to citizens for expert advice and peer review -- particularly if the MNRF is referring the case to OMB for a decision.

Further, the group appealed for a broader focus when assessing for cumulative impacts on groundwater, by considering large volume water taking AND residential and agricultural needs, coupled with research on climate change.

CAMQ finds that the high priority on 'close to source aggregate,' in combination with gaps in oversight and legislation, leave rural residents vulnerable -- particularly with regards to water for home and agricultural use. The group hopes that through legislation, the standard can be set for addressing rural water use to ensure safe and healthy communities.

For more information, please contact Sue Munro, Chair, CAMQ (613) 968-5943

***Promoting Responsible, Sustainable and Equitable Resource Use***

[www.citizensagainstmelrosequarry.com](http://www.citizensagainstmelrosequarry.com)