

## **CITIZENS AGAINST MELROSE QUARRY**

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MEDIA RELEASE – JUNE 12, 2019.

TYENDINAGA TOWNSHIP, Ontario – June 12, 2019 – A group of concerned citizens is attempting to understand why a defeated motion to remove the Township’s Objector Status for the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) Application for the proposed Melrose Quarry, was placed back on the council agenda for a second vote.

The Township’s letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources in response to the ARA license application for the proposed Melrose Quarry was written on March 18, 2011, and addressed the requirements of zoning, mitigation and citizens concerns. Citizens, many of whom wrote letters of objection in 2011, and reaffirmed their concerns in writing in 2018, do not believe either the mitigation measures or their concerns have been met.

At the January 21, 2019 council meeting, Councillor Claire Kennelly moved with Reeve Rick Phillips seconding, to remove the Township’s objector status for the ARA application. This motion ended in a 2-2 tie and was defeated. Deputy Reeve Adam Hannafin, the step grandson to Charlie Demill, proponent of the proposed Melrose Quarry, requested that the motion be brought back for a second vote. Two of the councillors asked Township CAO Brad Roach if this defeated motion could be reintroduced. He indicated that he had sought advice from someone at Hastings County, as Tyendinaga Township's bylaws are silent on the matter. He was advised it could be reintroduced and it was placed on an upcoming council agenda.

At the February 19, 2019 council meeting, Deputy Reeve Hannafin motioned to remove the Township’s ARA objector status for the proposed Melrose Quarry. This was seconded by Councillor Kennelly. In a recorded vote, Councillors McFarlane and Lang voted against the motion resulting in a tie. Reeve Phillips cast the tie breaking vote and the motion was carried.

Hastings County Governance By-Law (section 15.1) states that a defeated motion can only be reintroduced by the prevailing side. Because Deputy Reeve Hannafin was not at the January 21, 2019 council meeting and was not on the prevailing side, County by-laws would not normally provide him with an option to reintroduce this defeated motion.

CAMQ is seeking to find out who at Hastings County advised Mr. Roach on the protocol for reintroducing a motion. The Hastings County Administration office was contacted, but was unable to provide information either on what advice was provided or who provided advice to Mr. Roach. Tyendinaga Township’s Reeve Phillips is also Warden of Hastings County.

On June 10, CAMQ filed a Freedom of Information request with Tyendinaga Township as it attempts to seek answers surrounding the Township’s removal of objector status for the ARA license application for the proposed Melrose Quarry.

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

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

**About CAMQ:** CAMQ is a group of Tyendinaga Township residents who are concerned about a proposal to develop a new quarry beside the existing Long's Quarry at the corner of Melrose and Shannonville Roads, Township of Tyendinaga, Hastings County. The group formed in 2013 over concerns that the dewatering needed for the proposed Melrose Quarry would extend the impacts of current quarrying activities on the area's groundwater supply. Area residents and farms have no access to municipal water supplies.

**Threat to Water** – What effect on local streams? What effect on nearby dug and drilled wells? A quarry needs to be kept dry to be operational. When a quarry operator digs below the water table (intersects the aquifer) groundwater drains into the quarry. This water, along with precipitation, must be pumped out. Over time, there is a risk that this pumping will reduce the amount of groundwater in the aquifer. Long's Quarry appears to be authorized to pump up to 3 million litres per day for 60 days (spring thaw/melt/storm) and up to 1.3 million litres for the balance of the year. Water is a shared resource. Homes and farms in the area rely on one single aquifer for their water needs. There is no alternate water supply.

**Noise and Vibration** – Explosives are used to break up the limestone in Long's Quarry to allow easier removal of aggregate. This activity has resulted in numerous complaints to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) and to the township from surrounding property owners. Local home owners have reported cracks in their foundations. Additional blasting from a second quarry has the potential to affect additional properties.

For more information about Citizens Against Melrose Quarry, go to [www.citizensagainstmelrosequarry.com](http://www.citizensagainstmelrosequarry.com)

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