



## **CITIZENS AGAINST MELROSE QUARRY**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - JULY 24, 2019

### **Citizens' opposition continues as licensing hearings set to begin for new quarry.**

TYENDINAGA TOWNSHIP, ON – July 24, 2019 – Citizens have long expressed their concerns over the proposed Melrose Quarry in Tyendinaga Township. With a planned location immediately adjacent to the existing Long's Quarry, the new quarry would increase the area's combined footprint of extraction to about 100 acres. Can this potentially lead up to 1 million tons of aggregate removed yearly? Residents are extremely concerned over the future of their water supply and the potential for additional aquifer drainage. Additionally, the effects of blasting, dust settling on the surrounding crops and farmland, the increased truck traffic, particularly past the local elementary school and the impact on property values also greatly worry residents.

Citizens' opposition to the proposed quarry began back in May 2004. At that time, a public meeting was held by Hastings County to discuss an Official Plan Amendment (OPA) in order to designate the agricultural to the east of the current Long's Quarry as Extractive. Despite public outcry against this change, Hastings County approved the motion to amend the Official Plan in June 2004. In October of that year, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs found that the application package was incomplete and advised Hastings County to consider repealing the motion. The motion was not repealed and laid dormant until August 2012, when the file was revisited and the OPA was quietly passed. Residents were not notified that Hastings County had revisited the file after a seven-year lapse in activity and they started looking for answers.

For the past 15 years, residents have diligently advocated for the health and safety of their community. Fearing their voices were still not being heard, a group of concerned citizens joined together to form Citizens Against Melrose Quarry (CAMQ) in 2013. The next year, members of the group presented a submission to the Justice Policy Standing Committee on Bill 39, the Aggregate Resources and Mining Modernization Act (ARA). This legislation now requires that the "possible effects on ground and surface water resources including on drinking water sources" not just municipality water, to be considered when an aggregate license is requested.

Despite residents' concerns, in November 2018, Tyendinaga Township council voted to rezone the land for the Melrose Quarry to Special Extractive Industrial. Does this mean a path is cleared for a concrete or asphalt plant to be built within the next 10 years? CAMQ wants to ensure that any permitted uses will not include such things as asphalt or concrete plants. The ARA licensing application, which has been open since 2010, was referred to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) by the Ministry of the Natural Resources in March, 2018. CAMQ, with the backing of the Canadian Environmental Law Association, will be seeking status at the LPAT prehearing to be held on Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 10:30 AM in the Tyendinaga Township Recreation Hall. The ARA licensing is one of the final approvals needed that could see a large expansion of quarrying activities in this small farming community.

***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 rely on this groundwater supply. There is 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.

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