



TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA

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MARCH 7, 2017

NEWS RELEASE

Zorra Appears Before Government Standing Committee Regarding Proposed Amendments to Aggregate Resources Act

NEWS

Mayor Margaret Lupton and Councillor Marie Keasey appeared before the all-party Standing Committee on Justice Policy at Queen's Park on March 2, 2017, to present the Township's concerns with proposed amendments to the Aggregate Resources Act. The Standing Committee on Justice Policy held two days of public hearings to receive public feedback on **Bill 39, An Act to amend the Aggregate Resources Act and the Mining Act**.

Specifically, Mayor Lupton noted concern that the present royalty payment of \$0.06/tonne to municipalities is inadequate and does not properly fund road improvements on gravel haul roads. Another primary concern is that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) is unable to enforce adherence to recognized haul routes. The Township is very frustrated there is no enforcement mechanism to police these vehicles. There are many responsible operators in Zorra and the majority are very cooperative and are diligent in adhering to haul routes.

The Township of Zorra is home to 48 licensed sand, gravel and quarry operations that cumulatively cover approximately 2,730.95 ha (6,748.08 ac) of land. Taken together, these 48 licensed operations are approved for a maximum annual extraction of over 25.4 million tonnes of material. For comparison, this area would cover over 27% of the area of the Town of Richmond Hill and over 10% of the City of Mississauga. The Township has actively participated in this review of the Aggregate Resources that was commenced by the Province in 2011.

QUOTES

"We were pleased to have an opportunity to present the concerns of Zorra Township to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy. The Township provides aggregates to south-western Ontario and our residents bear the brunt of impacts associated with gravel pits such as noise, dust and increased truck traffic. The Township also bears financial burdens due to degradation of our road system, assessment loss and more importantly the loss of some of the most productive farm land in North America. We hope the Province will hear our very serious concerns and take action to protect our residents."

- *Margaret Lupton, Mayor of Zorra Township*

"Our residents are feeling a real sense of frustration with the current process and the lack of meaningful input. We have noted several examples of where proposed amendments to the Act will lessen information exchange between MNR and the Township. We have here requested reinstatement of these sections as well regulations that would examine cumulative effects such as noise, dust, environment impacts where multiple operations concentrated in small geographic areas."

- *Marie Keasey, Ward 2 Councillor*

Continued.....



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BACKGROUND

Located in the heart of southwestern Ontario, Zorra Township has a population of approximately 8,300 people in a rural/urban setting. Zorra has been consistently been included in the top ten aggregate producing municipalities in Ontario and was number eight in the last reporting year, 2015.

MEDIA CONTACT

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