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Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of 50by30WR.

We applaud Council's decision on March 28th to support the call to the Province for a moratorium on gravel mining until an independent panel of experts can conduct a review and make recommendations that guarantee gravel mining does not compromise groundwater for future generations and does preserve gravel which is a finite resource.

Climate justice highlights other priorities including: prevention of destruction of natural habitat and preservation of fertile soils, reconciliation with indigenous people regarding treaty promises and stewardship of the land. We are asking Wilmot Council to refuse the zoning change now, wait for the expert evaluation and recommendations proposed by the moratorium on gravel mining and then reassess the township needs with the best interests of a safe, just climate future and the health and safety of current residents protected.

In it's 2008 report *A Greener City for All: Dig Conservation, Not Holes*, the Toronto Environmental Alliance writes:

"If we don't change our current aggregate usage, renewing and building the GTA's infrastructure will destroy precious agricultural land and world-renowned natural spaces in the Greenbelt. The key recommendations of this report call for GTA municipalities to ... adopt a 3Rs approach -- reduce, reuse and recycle -- to aggregate consumption in order to ensure GTA infrastructure does not destroy the ecological integrity and agricultural livelihood of the Greenbelt. It also recommends that municipalities urge the Province of Ontario to develop new aggregate policies that mandate the 3Rs and promote the production of "sustainable" aggregate."

Further writing about the environmental impacts of aggregate extraction "less than half of the land disturbed for aggregate production between 1992 and 2001 has actually been rehabilitated." [\[2\]](#) The province classifies pits and quarries as "interim uses of the land" and requires 100% rehabilitation of pits and quarries. Clearly this requirement is not being met. Destroyed ecosystems and source water aquifers are irreplaceable. This is not an interim land use. The landscape is blotted with

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destructive pits and quarries, and species of all kinds endure permanent negative impacts.”

What transformations in the construction industry, and in the types of materials used, will be necessary for a sustainable future? How will these changes determine land use decisions regarding aggregate extraction?

In a Science Direct series on Civil and Structural Engineering published in 2018, the author writes:

“The responsibility of achieving an eco-efficient concrete structure lies on the industry stakeholders, including the material producers... Of importance ...is the potential of structural engineers in reducing the environmental impacts of concrete structures through selecting eco-efficient repair and rehabilitation systems which consume less natural raw materials and induce less CO₂ emissions, while providing the same reliability, with a much longer durability.”

In another Science Direct series published in 2021 the author writes: “The recent and growing trend to manufacture concrete with aggregate recycled from construction and demolition waste has contributed to the implementation of circular economy principles in the construction industry.”

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario writes “Municipal governments have significant responsibilities for the siting of all land uses, including aggregate extraction. ...Municipal governments must then deal with the impacts of the site on water resources, neighbours, haul routes, road damage from heavy hauling, pit rehabilitation, and safety for traffic and pedestrians.”

Wilmot Council will be considering all of these impacts tonight while making the decision regarding the zoning change requested for the Hallman Pit. Is there urgency to make a zoning change now? No, apparently not, given that there are already seven pits which extract only 10% of the licensed capacity.

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Does the climate emergency demand that we re-evaluate the construction industry's future need for aggregate? Yes, most certainly. A new UN report on climate change was released today. Scientists report harmful carbon emissions from 2010-2019 have never been higher in human history, and is proof that the world is on a “fast track” to disaster. [António Guterres has warned](#), that it's ‘now or never’ to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. We know this moment in history calls for courage and openness to new ways of thinking and doing. Business as usual is not good enough, in fact it is irresponsible. The least we can do is to demand our province act on the Demand for a Moratorium Now (DAMN). The best we can do is to wait for climate informed expert evidence to guide decision making about sustainable aggregate.

I am asking Wilmot Council to take the wise path forward. Please refuse this zoning change.

Thank you,
Barbara Schumacher,
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