



To: Mayor and Council

From: Gravel Watch Ontario

Re: Ontario on the Rocks

Date: January 8, 2021

Gravel Watch is a province-wide umbrella group representing communities and individuals across the province. Like you, we keep a watchful eye on aggregate-related operations, practices, and policy development throughout Ontario. In addition to that vigilance, we offer many resources to our members and the public, providing education via our website at www.gravelwatch.org and in monthly meetings. Further, we advocate on behalf of members, communities, the environment, and all Ontarians, for better management of aggregate resources. We believe that these can be of use to you and to members of your community.

When, in 2020, we sent a previous communication, we were pleased that we subsequently heard from community groups. That means that you shared the document, and we shared your burden of providing information around aggregate issue to the community. If we lightened your load by doing so, that is a good thing. We know what difficult times you are steering your municipality through. Thank you for that work.

The attached document, *Ontario on the Rocks: A Report on the Economic, Social and Environmental Consequences of Resource Extraction*, is a summary of some current policy directions as well as our recommendations which have been previously offered to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. It suggests the following:

- Stimulating the Ontario economy's emerging industries as well as reducing costs to the municipalities and the province through resource recovery and other measures;



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- Prioritizing local industry, and local jobs through provincial procurement practices;
- Quantifying, evaluating, and conserving aggregate resources;
- Valuing agriculture and water resources above the narrow, short-term interests of one industry
- Showing respect to individuals, community groups and municipalities in a way that recognizes not only your attachment but your detailed knowledge of the particularities of your location.

Gravel Watch Ontario invites you to consider and discuss the attached document, and to share it actively with members of your community who have an interest in moving toward better management of aggregate resources. Additionally, Gravel Watch is open to discussions with you and them via our email connection i.e., info@gravelwatch.org, our website at www.gravelwatch.org, or by calling 289-270-7535.

Sincerely,

Bryan Smith, President

Gravel Watch Ontario