

Aug 9, 2022 - Presentation on Quarry Expansion objection

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I watch municipal affairs closely and I know you deal with a lot, under pressure from various sources and with less resources than ideal.

My main concern with this application is the environmental affect which is long term and irreversible once it is set in motion. Progressive reclamation, which in this case will only be undertaken if it does not economically affect the operation, is only a mitigating measure, it does not restore that which was lost. I have secondary concerns about the health effects from dust, noise and traffic and in addition the impact on property taxes as the decreased value of properties around the quarry will result in higher taxes for the rest of us. I believe there will be increased maintenance costs to East Ferris roads, which the proponent feels is a taxpayer responsibility.

This council was presented with a resolution back in June 2019 (Appendix A) that sought to classify climate change as an emergency. That resolution was modified because it was felt that the word “emergency” was symbolic, and council wanted to point out that East Ferris “consistently seeks ways and opportunities to engage in actions that protect its environment”

I am suggesting advocating on behalf of concerned residents would be an action designed to protect our environment.

While a lot of this proposal is under provincial control, other municipalities in Ontario are advocating on behalf of their residents and some have even called for a moratorium on all new approvals for gravel mining in Ontario. In Feb 2021 [Belleville Council](#) restricted heavy trucks from using two surface treated roads due to the wear and tear on roads not designed for that traffic. In Powassan, the owner of the gravel pit there agreed to repair and maintain the condition of the roads used. Although that agreement was reached during a rezoning, it does provide support for an objection by the Municipality in this case.

I recognize that aggregate production is necessary for most of the infrastructure that underpins our society today, but there has been a flaw in the regulation of that industry. To the best of my knowledge, there is no requirement to show a need for the increase in aggregate production to justify the environmental damage. Despite this lack in regulation, I believe the need for local access to aggregate was touched on, during the recent special meeting of council. However, we did not learn what the additional 430,000 tonnes per year was going to be used for, or where. If the gravel was not accessed at this pit, or Mr. Degagne's pit in Bonfield it was stated there were sources available in Nipissing Junction (Miller and Poulin) North Bay and Powassan...with limitations on access at Poulin. (See Appendix B)

Mr. Villard touts the environmental benefit from reduced trucking aggregate into our community but leaves out the cost of trucking increased production out of our community. There also appears to be many more sources of aggregate, closer to East Ferris within 25 kms. (See Appendix C)

I believe council should also be informed more about the demand for aggregate reported by Mr. Villard. He quoted tonnage used last year by Mr. Degagne, and I couldn't hear the actual number of tons due to poor audio quality, but I wonder how much of that was to replace the topsoil scraped into piles at his Corbeil Road property? I am told a new house requires around 400 tons of gravel and given the average of 25 homes constructed per year here, that segment should take around 10,000 tons. I'm not sure how much the Municipality uses for landfill cover or roads, but I don't see any increased demand in any of those situations.

If access to aggregate is going to be used as a reason to support or object to this proposal, I think all existing sources should be considered. Regardless of whether this application succeeds or fails, I believe it has demonstrated that council needs to focus more on the supply, regulation and regulation enforcement of aggregate production, both municipally and provincially.

Thank you.

Appendix A



THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF EAST FERRIS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 11, 2019

PRESENT:	Pauline Rochefort, Mayor	Erika Lougheed, Councillor
	Mike Voyer, Deputy Mayor	Steven Trahan, Councillor
	Terry Kelly, Councillor	
STAFF	Monica L. Hawkins, Clerk	Jason Trottier, CAO/Treasurer
PRESENT:		

Resolution presented by Councillor Lougheed

2019-172

Moved by Councillor Lougheed

Seconded by Councillor Trahan

WHEREAS climate change is currently contributing to billions of dollars in property and infrastructure damage worldwide, stressing local and international economies;

WHEREAS climate change is currently jeopardizing the health and survival of many species and other natural environments worldwide, stressing local and international eco systems;

WHEREAS climate change is currently harming human populations through rising sea levels and other extraordinary phenomena like intense wildfires worldwide, stressing local and international communities;

WHEREAS recent international research has indicated a need for massive reduction in carbon emissions in the next 11 years to avoid further and devastating economic, ecological, and societal loss;

WHEREAS an emergency can be defined as "an often dangerous situation requiring immediate action";

WHEREAS municipalities such as Sudbury, West Nipissing, Ottawa, London, Kingston, Burlington, St Catherine, Halton Hills, Vancouver and Hamilton have already declared climate emergencies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipality of East Ferris, officially declare a climate emergency for the purposes of naming, framing, and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our eco systems, and our community from climate change.

Moved by Councillor Kelly

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Voyer

AMENDMENT - CLIMATE CHANGE MOTION PREPARED BY COUNCILLOR KELLY

That the Motion regarding Climate Change be amended as follows:

1. The following three paragraphs be deleted:

WHEREAS an emergency can be defined as “an often dangerous situation requiring immediate action”;

WHEREAS Municipalities such as Sudbury, West Nipissing, Ottawa, London, Kingston, Burlington, St. Catharines, Halton Hills, Vancouver and Hamilton have already declared climate emergencies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of East Ferris, officially declare a climate emergency for the purposes of naming, framing, and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our eco systems, and our community from climate change.

2. The following paragraphs be inserted:

WHEREAS the Municipality of East Ferris views ensuring the health and survival of Mother Earth as essential, it is opting for a resolution that enables actions to combat climate change that are within its control versus passing a resolution that many municipalities have referred to as “symbolic”;

WHEREAS the Municipality of East Ferris currently identifies and plans for impending climate change impacts on its community via its Emergency Preparation Plan and consistently seeks ways and opportunities to engage in actions that protect its environment;

WHEREAS the Municipality of East Ferris' Strategic Plan specifies that it will pursue further meaningful and measurable ways to protect its lakes, water and forests; keep its local environment clean; protect its landfill site and encourage robust recycling programs;

WHEREAS the Municipality of East Ferris is aligning itself to the Province of Ontario Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan that includes upcoming commitments to reduce plastic waste and litter and making producers responsible for the end-of-life management of their products;

WHEREAS the Municipality of East Ferris recognizes its responsibility to do everything in its power to minimize the impacts of climate change on future generations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of East Ferris affirms its commitment to fighting off climate change and that this commitment will form part of the Municipality's decision-making framework and upcoming budgets.

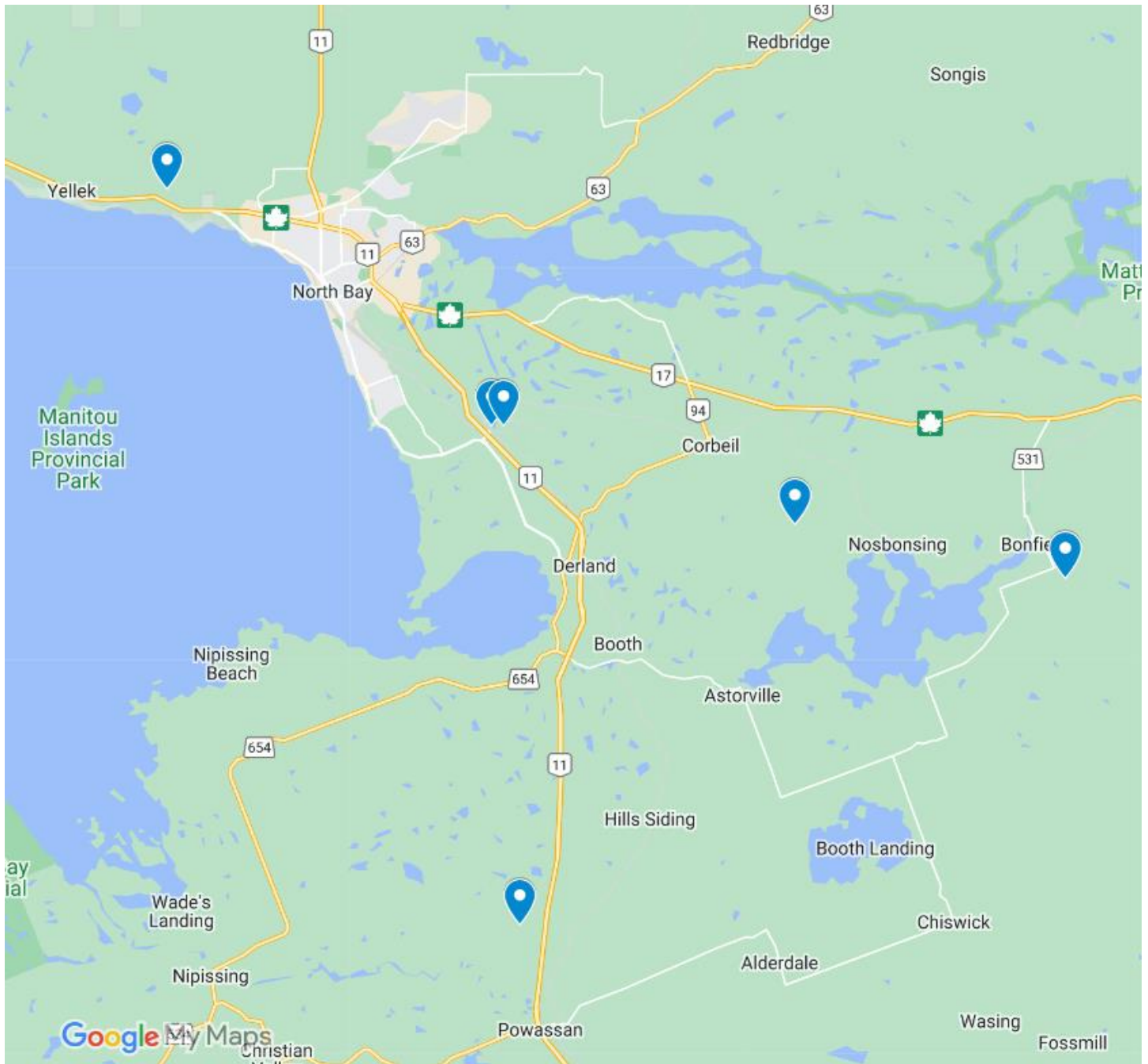
For (4): Mayor Rochefort, Deputy Mayor Voyer , Councillor Kelly, and Councillor Trahan

Against (1): Councillor Loughheed

Carried (4 to 1)

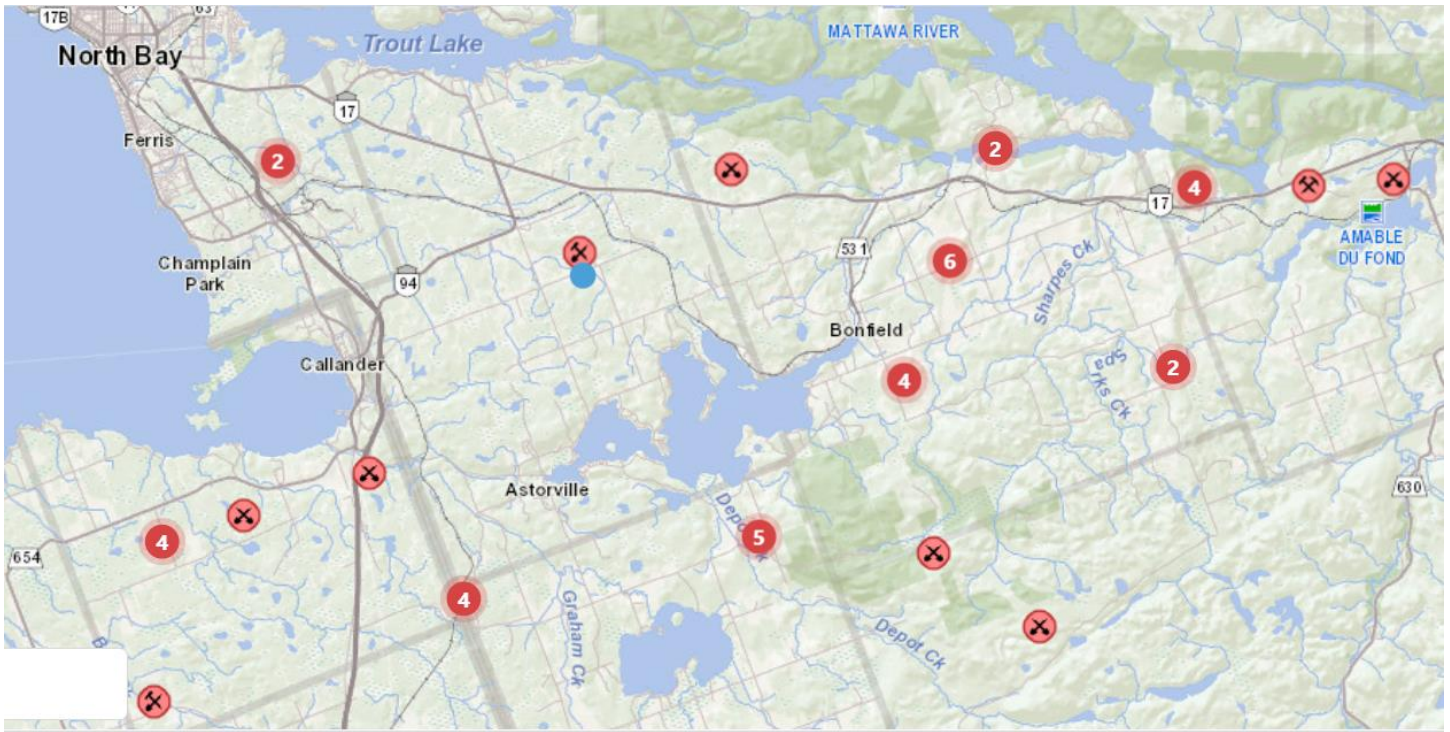
Appendix B

Gravel Pits mentioned at Special Council Meeting



Appendix C

Gravel Pits shown in Ministry Pits and Quarries map



Numbers indicate the number of aggregate pits in the immediate area...all within 25 kms of the proposed expansion