

# Hidden Quarry, Another Potential Hole in the Water-Giving Paris Galt Moraine

By Linda Sword

**O**n February 20, 2019 Green Party MPP Mike Schreiner introduced a

Private Member's Bill, Bill 71, The Paris-Galt Moraine Conservation Act. In March, the Ontario Legislature voted unanimously to support further discussions of the bill in committee. On March 27, Halton Region voted unanimously to support Bill 71. Among the conservation measures is a protection against aggregate mining below the water table in the Paris-Galt Moraine.

The Hidden Quarry, an aggregate mine proposed by James Dick Construction Ltd., would blast into the Paris-Galt Moraine near Rockwood. The water-recharge capabilities of this location are among the highest in the moraine and in the Grand River Watershed. Locally, one municipal and dozens of private wells, as well as the wetlands and creeks contained in the curves of the moraine, are at risk. Cumulatively, this newest invasion of a moraine



already shocked by pits and quarries, adds to the threat to this essential water resource.

A local citizens group, Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC), began its assessment of the Hidden Quarry application in 2013. As their understanding of the issues deepened, their concern about the destruction of moraines, which are composed of the very stone, sand and gravel mined by aggregate companies, led them to publish in April 2018 a Call to Action: Protect Our Water: Stop aggregate mining in Ontario's moraines! Ontario policies force competition between water protection and aggregate mining in the moraines.

The tipping point has

arrived at which the need to preserve and protect the essential water-resources-related functions of the moraines must outweigh the benefits of extracting the readily accessible, close to market aggregates found in Ontario's moraines.

CRC concluded: "We therefore call on the Ontario government to: 1) Implement an immediate cessation of all new aggregate extraction licences in moraines, ...; and 2) Develop a new aggregate management strategy that gives full value to the natural capital that resides in all potential aggregate extraction sites in a thorough cost-benefit analysis of proposed aggregate extraction operations."



On May 21, the Hidden Quarry licence application began a multi-week hearing at the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal. Will the efficient, cost-free, life-giving services of the Paris-Galt Moraine be protected?

CRC is raising \$350,000 to bring scientific expertise to the hearing. To learn more or to make a donation to CRC Rockwood Inc., please visit [www.hiddenquarry.org](http://www.hiddenquarry.org) or [www.facebook.com/crockwood](https://www.facebook.com/crockwood).