



Hello Members!

Winter came and went already but is never far away from staying these days! Like many organizations (MC)2 has packed a lot of activity into the pre-snow world. On **October 18, we hosted a Town Hall meeting** at the Mulum Offices in Terra Nova. The well-attended meeting featured five speakers who provided a very thorough introduction to the concerns that have arisen across our community about a major expansion of the Strada Company's aggregate mine in Melancthon. **The speakers were Mulum Mayor Janet Horner, the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition's Susan Lloyd Swail, (MC)2's Stephen Middleton, Larry Taman, head of Melancthon Against Quarries (MAQ) and Vera Odette a MAQ member who lives next to the quarry site.**

The attendees heard and saw detailed information about the impact on the water supply from the below water table plans of the Strada mine. It will be located in the headwaters of several important Southern Ontario rivers, as well as critical supply for local towns, individual wells and agricultural supplies. Additionally, the mine will be making extensive use of explosives, creating potentially dangerous particulate and dust. Other concerns focused on a major increase in truck traffic totalling an estimated 100,000 trips, as well as the overall impact of the mine on local citizens' quality of life.

Perhaps two major concerns pulled all of the presentations together. First was the research done by the Auditor General of Ontario and confirmed by the Reform Gravel Mining group, **that aggregate current operations in Ontario have adequate aggregate to supply all needs for the next thirty years.** The other concern has been that the research and justifications for the mine, as provided by Strada, do not adequately provide either the needed supports for their plan or any interest in explaining how they would deal with any of the problems and risks that have been identified.

For those members who would like more information about all of the concerns that were identified at our meeting, there are several excellent letters and articles available on the MAQ website -

www.juststopit.ca

Finally, we should report that over 1000 objection letters were sent by citizens to the government group that will review the Strada application. Strada is required to answer every letter's concerns, a process that will take a long time. In the meantime, one major worry remains that Premier Ford may, using some of the industry-facilitating regulations he has put into place, arbitrarily approve an application which has a daunting number of serious risks. **We will continue to push forward with our concerns to the Premier!**

On October 26, we held our own **(MC)2 Annual Meeting** at Monora Park in Mono. The first part of the meeting featured an update on the past year, provided by our **President Don MacFarlane**, followed by the Treasurer's Report and the Board election. Don focused on two priorities for the upcoming year. First, we are in the midst of restarting our former Environment Committee, to be known as the **Environment/Land Use/Community Outreach Committee**. A meeting is scheduled for December 2nd with several Board members meeting with a group of volunteers who have expressed an interest in these areas. Among a variety of other initiatives, we hope to return to presenting public environmentally-based community information meetings as we have often done in the past.

The other priority will be to take an in-depth look at our various communication systems - newsletters, email, eblasts, and social media. We have made major progress in the past year with our monthly News Brief, which provides an excellent base on which we can decide how best to use our other communication tools.

The Treasurer's Report was provided by our retiring Treasurer, **Del Bernardi**. Our financial status has been solid as we operate using membership fees and much appreciated donations to fund our limited expenses, mainly public meeting costs, printing and postage, website, internet, "office" expenses and Board liability insurance. Del introduced Catherine Campbell, our new Treasurer.



Most of our Board members, **Catherine Campbell (Treasurer)**, **Barbara Jafelice**, **Jill Johnson (Secretary)** and **Don MacFarlane (President)** were elected at last year's AM to two-year terms. The election confirmed **Stephen Middleton** as a new Board member while we recognized Del's excellent work over several years of Board membership. Del has retired from the Board and is joining our team of active volunteers. Since the meeting **Larry Taman** has agreed to join our Board to continue the strong service to our community that he demonstrated as one of the leaders of Melancthon Against Quarries. More about this in our January News Brief!

Don introduced our guest speaker, John Riley, who has been one of Ontario's and Canada's leading environmentalists. John uses his multidisciplinary training to support the work on many valuable natural resources and to provide his broad expertise on many government and non-government organizations to support building sustainable living places and systems. He spent part of his presentation reviewing the deep mapping analysis he has worked on with the Township of Mono in these areas. Our Mulmur members in attendance were most interested to hear about this!

Don adjourned the AM with heartfelt thanks to the (MC)2 Board and (MC)2's "amazing" volunteers. "Without their hard work, (MC)2 could not fulfill its mandate of providing information about our community and the major issues and groups which support our fine life here!" - **Don**

JOIN US!



Mulmur Council

- The first draft of the 2026 budget was presented to Council at the November 5th meeting. It proposes a tax levy increase of 6.36% or a tax rate increase of 3.49%. The public will be able to comment on draft #2 at the December council meeting.
- A public meeting on proposed amendments to the Township's Zoning by-law highlighted areas that need to be reviewed and updated. They included: the removal of the NAVCAN beacon; setbacks and gross floor areas for detached single dwellings (max 80m2) recommended by staff; permission for one home industry per property; provincial regulations for schools; permissions for outdoor events in recreational zones; restrictions for new cemeteries; and updates to definitions. Council directed staff to re-examine the maximum floor areas and setbacks for additional detached single dwellings.
- A comment letter emphasizing Mulmur's strong objection to the Strada Aggregates' development project and urging the Ministry to reject the quarry licence application was sent to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The letter can be viewed on the Township of Mulmur website.

Mono Council

- At the last Council meeting on November 12th, Council went line by line through the budget as prepared by staff. Some discussion and corrections were made then
- The revised budget was presented at the special public meeting on the budget on November 18th. The evening meeting was intended to facilitate public input and general discussion, explanation or concerns on items which the public wanted to raise with Council
- A disappointing handful of residents showed up. A few questions and some statements of policy or directions for Council were made. The recreation department and public works were the main focus of most questions.



Separating Fact from Fantasy in Aggregate Industry PR

The public comment period for the Strada Quarry application is now closed. Thanks to all of you who submitted letters. Actually over 1000 of them at last count! The “ball” is now in Strada’s court. It has been a lot of work, but we are still in the beginning stage of the process. In the meantime, the Aggregate Industry is gearing up its powerful PR machine to push for more “streamlined” and faster approval process. In other words, less regulation and oversight. The industry claims that they are “stewards” of the land that they quarry. But **Stewardship** is defined as the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care. To be a “**Steward of the Land**” means taking responsibility for the care and management of natural resources like soil, air, and water for the benefit of the current and future generations. The industry, on the other hand, talks about stripping off the “Overburden” - the top soil and other materials that cover the “valuable deposit”. Then they divert any flow of water from surface run-off, underground streams and aquifers and then blast, crush and haul away resource. Maybe it’s just me, but that sounds less like Stewardship and a whole lot more like Destructive Exploitation - the process of using a resource in an unsustainable and harmful manner that results in its severe degradation, depletion, or destruction, for short-term profit or gain. Aggregate mining is a necessary evil, to be undertaken only when absolutely necessary and where it will do the least damage.

The engine of the industry’s PR machine is the **Ontario Stone Sand and Gravel Association**. Here is an excerpt from one of their news letters - “Queen’s Park was rockin’ on April 15th, 2024, as more than 40 members held 42 meetings with Ministers, MPPs, Deputy Ministers, senior political staff and key decision makers at the Ontario Legislature. OSSGA’s message was clear: the industry is in crisis. Without faster approvals for new close-to-market aggregate sites, Ontario’s ambitious infrastructure plan is in peril.”

We are not alone in this fight. There are currently 14 communities in Ontario that are opposing quarry applications. **Reform Gravel Mining** has called for a moratorium on new pits and quarries, so that a complete and transparent evaluation of the real need for aggregate and the effective regulation of the industry can be undertaken. Expect to hear more about this! - **Stephan**

Stewardship or Destructive Exploitation???

The Aggregate Industry can’t tell the difference but the People of Ontario can!!!

Holiday Shopping! Go Local!

Holiday Treasures Craft Market at the Museum of Dufferin (Airport Rd & Hwy 89)

- November 26th-Dec 7th
- Wednesday to Sunday 10-4 PM
- Support 60+ local artisans and small local businesses
- While you’re shopping at the craft market, **check out (MC)2 member and Hockley Valley artist and photographer Peter Dusek’s “Field Work” exhibition in the Silo Gallery.** Through a series of photographs, Peter “captures the quiet poetry and essence of rural architecture – barns, silos and country buildings – that re-imagine these structures as part of a broader dialogue with the land and sky they occupy and a testament to how the land and its structures shape one another over time.” The exhibition is on until January 31st.

“More than Just Baskets”

- This stunning store is located in downtown Orangeville and is beautifully packed 100% with the creations, inventions and projects of many local artisans as well as strictly Canadian small businesses across the country. Plus baskets of course for every occasion or giftee!
- Many holiday gift choices!
- Open 7 days a week and well worth a visit



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@monomulmur