

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 21, 2016, COLLINGWOOD, ON: An application has been submitted to the Town of Blue Mountains to change the Official Plan to allow a gravel quarry at the western most edge of the Pretty River Valley Conservation Area. A new quarry in the sensitive areathreatens groundwater, hundreds of species, and enjoyment of hundreds of cyclists, hikers, and nature enthusiasts.

The Pretty River Valley Conservation Area, part of the Niagara Biosphere Reserve, has provincially significant geological features related to glacial and post-glacial processes along one of the highest point of the Niagara Escarpment. Features include meltwater channels, moraine and talus slopes. Over 400 species of vascular plants have been identified in the park.

Quarries (or open-pit mines) have the potential to seriously impact upon both the quantity and quality of water in surrounding areas. In particular, the following concerns have been raised by experts in the field:

- *noise, dust, odour/emissions, vegetation/habitat including wetlands, wildlife, water quality and water quantity associated with both groundwater and surface water resources*
- *vegetation/habitat and wildlife: as economics drive the process, the size and depth of quarries continues to increase in order to extract the full depth of the resource. Such operations usually involve de-watering and may also interfere with surface water resources.*
- *Quarries which extend below the groundwater table are de-watered to maintain dry operating conditions. A portion of the accumulated water may be used for aggregate processing.*

**Source:** QUARRIES - Jagger Hims Limited

“After living in many cities around North America I chose to live in the Town of Blue Mountains because of the amazing year-round outdoor activities it offers,” said former NHL star player, Scott Thornton. “As an avid mountain biker, road cyclist and over-all nature enthusiast I spend a ton of time in the Pretty River Valley and can’t imagine the impact another quarry would have on this rare, unique piece of wilderness. We should be protecting these areas from development, not encroaching on them.”

There are currently four existing quarries in a 15km radius of the Pretty River Valley, with major expansion to one quarry currently in progress with 10km. The implications to local residents and tourists include:

- Projected removal of 4% of Pretty River Woodland
- Projected Operating Days: 6 Days a Week
- Projected Pit Life: 50 - 60 years
- Conn Pit Projected: 150,000 Tons Below the Water Table
- Rezoned area projected: 2,700,000 Tons
- Approximately 44 more trucks / day on major cycling routes

The Friends of Pretty River are asking for the Town of Blue Mountains to reject the application for re-zoning the parcel of land in question and calling on all interested parties to sign the petition at [www.noprettyriverquarry.ca](http://www.noprettyriverquarry.ca).

For More Information: [info@noprettyriverquarry.ca](mailto:info@noprettyriverquarry.ca)

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