

**From:** [Spratt, Jenna](#)  
**To:** [Spratt, Jenna](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Statutory PUBLIC Meeting...re: ROPA 21-0003 application/ proposed UPPERS QUARRY, City of Niagara Falls  
**Date:** October 6, 2023 9:23:11 AM

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 05 October 2023 18:21:43 (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** Clerks  
**Subject:** Statutory PUBLIC Meeting...re: ROPA 21-0003 application/ proposed UPPERS QUARRY, City of Niagara Falls

Niagara Region Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting Oct 11, 2023.

I submit my opposition TO THIS REZONING APPLICATION.

This development defies all environmental science to protect our Citizens, our Natural Heritage Systems, Biodiversity, Ecological Systems and Natural Water Resource Systems.

We are living real-time climate change crisis, one of the main causes of climate change is land degradation , clearcutting forests, destroying grasslands, ecosystems, loss of biodiversity and draining wetlands, putting our watercourse at risk, depleting good agricultural land.

We can and must reverse these irresponsible/bad planning choices and respect OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SYSTEMS. It takes ALL of us to reverse the impact of climate change by changing our priorities and values. We must protect the very natural ASSETS that serve to mitigate climate change and keep our communities SAFE AND HEALTHY now and for FUTURE GENERATIONS.

The cost longterm will exceed shortsighted gains of letting developers assault and disregard these "assets" for their own economic gain.

The current designation of this site, good agricultural, protected conservation, conservation area cannot, in good conscience, be rezoned to industrial aggregate in such close proximity to a highly residential area. That is recklessly putting our citizens at great risk to health and safety "serious concerns". Giving developers the advantage over citizens health is irresponsible governance.

SUSTAINABLE NIAGARA REGION SECTION 3.1 OP NOV 2022

This section outlines objectives and policies for a REGIONAL NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM AND WATER RESOURCE SYSTEM.

"THE intent of the natural heritage system is to preserve and enhance the biodiversity, connectivity, and the long-term ecological function of the natural system in the region". (OPNov2022)

FURTHER OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES EXTRACTED FROM OUR REGIONAL OP ARE:

- identify and protect a natural heritage system and water resource system
- maintain, restore, and enhance the biodiversity and connectivity of the natural features and their associated ecological and hydrological functions
- RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANT ROLE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

SYSTEM PLAYS IN MITIGATING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE BY PROTECTING AND ENHANCING NATURAL FEATURES

- maintain wetland areas and the hydrological and ecological functions they provide and to enhance wetland cover when possible
- protect woodlands and their biodiversity, restore ecological functions, and enhance woodland cover through reforestation, and restoration
- identify and protect other woodlands as a way to maintain treed areas in the region
- screen for, and evaluate enhancement areas as well as supporting features and areas to support the long-term ecological integrity of our natural environment systems
- identify linkages to protect ecological connectivity in the region
- protect and enhance water resources through proactive watershed and subwatershed planning
- consider cumulative impacts through watershed planning and the development application process
- minimize risks to human health and safety property associated with natural hazards

In addition to these 'natural environment OP objectives and policies' I also reference the NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES water report card 2023 that emphasizes the critical importance of PROTECTING WHAT WE HAVE LEFT OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT:

Water quality remains D GRADE since 2018

"To improve the water quality we need to protect and enhance naturalization areas using practices that help mitigate the effects of land use change are critical as development practice pressures and CLIMATE CHANGE continue to threaten the watershed".

Forest C-

"Forests are ecosystems that are composed of diverse group of plants, animals and many other organisms, they provide many social, and ecological benefits, such as habitat for flora and fauna, carbon sequestration. Approximately only 17% of the Niwgara Region watershed land base is forest covered and is lower than the 30% cover that is required by Conservation Science for a healthy watershed."

"THE "LOWEST GRADES" FOR FOREST CONDITION WERE FOUND IN THE HIGHLY DEVELOPED AREAS OF THE WATERSHED IN NIAGARA FALLS AND ST. CATHARINES".

"THE "HIGHEST GRADE" FOR FOREST CONDITION IN THE SOUTHERN PORTIONS OF THE WATERSHED WHERE THERE IS LESS DEVELOPMENT AND CONTAINS FORESTED WETLANDS".

"It is crucial that the forest conditions improve in the Niagara Peninsula watershed. Forests are important natural assets that help build healthy watersheds able to adapt to the effects of land-use and CLIMATE CHANGE".

GROUNDWATER REMAINS B for good.

...however ground water quality can be influenced by its geology, land-use and human activity AND VARY significantly between monitoring sites".

"The Niagara Peninsula watershed is a natural treasure of distinct cultural, geographical, biological

aspects not found elsewhere in N. America. It is part of the Carolinian Life Zone and IS ONE OF THE MOST BIODIVERSE AND THREATENED ECOREGIONS IN CANADA".

#### NPCA FINDINGS

"28% Niagara Peninsula land base is in some form of natural cover approx. 14% is wetland cover BUT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE AREA WITH HIGHEST % OF LOSS OF WETLANDS IN ONTARIO".

"More than 2,200 species of plants and animals live and rely on the watershed for survival."

"Nearly 10% of these species are rare or at risk due to habitat loss, urban sprawl, invasive species competition, pollution and CLIMATE CHANGE."

"Nearly 93% of the land in the watershed is privately owned. Protecting and preserving wildlife and their habitat is everyone's responsibility."

MY Conclusion, thank you for your time and attention to my concerns.

We must find ways to develop and grow without sacrificing our Natural Environment, it is very obvious we need our Natural ASSETS to reduce the impacts of climate change otherwise we are putting ourselves and the next generations at an increasingly higher risk of living in a habitable world. We need to set higher standards and follow your own policies and practices noted in our OFFICIAL PLAN. Why else are they there in written policy? Citizens expect that you will keep your word and protect our communities.

Environmental Science/CLIMATE CHANGE is very well studied and documented for decades and there are NO ACCEPTABLE REASONS to not follow the evidence. It is our children's and grandchildren's future at stake. What could be more important? This is the 21st century and we need 21st century solutions. I do not believe the REGIONAL URBAN DESIGN GUIDELINES on file/record would accommodate such an invasive development in a highly residential area let alone the loss of natural environment and natural water resource systems being disregarded in this rezoning application. WE need urban design for our times!!! CLIMATE CHANGE!!!

respectfully,

JUDY DOERR,

LONGTIME RESIDENT/HOMEOWNER OF NIAGARA FALLS.

Oct 5, 2023.