

Participant Statement of Alex Faux

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I live at 185 Paris Links Road directly south of the proposed quarry with my wife and two sons, aged 12 and 16. I am a local realtor. My family has lived in the area for seven years on land that has been in my wife's family since the early 1900s.

I have been involved in the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) since its inception in April of 2012 and have attended most of the meetings. The CAP's stated mission is to facilitate two-way communication and maintain relationships between Dufferin and regional residents and stakeholders. I have also toured the quarry site and seen the location and partial extraction for the proposed settling ponds. For the most part, I have been satisfied with the availability of documents, including the convenience of them being provided online. However, there have been some discrepancies and omissions in the information provided to CAP that have been of concern to me.

Throughout the time I have participated on the CAP my objective was to be kept well-informed about possible impacts on my own and neighbouring properties as well as to ensure there would be no impacts on the local residential water supply or on the Grand River. When problems with the site were brought to the attention of the CAP Dufferin has typically brought in their own experts to review our concerns and further explain the process

My concerns are not limited to five or ten years but 30 to 50 years out. I am not anti-development but I believe resource extraction must occur responsibly. I am also aware that aggregate must come from someone's backyard to supply the demand of our growing community and surrounding areas. I don't take issue with this or the fact that it is happening in my back yard. The concern is that with increasing pressure on fresh water sources that extreme measures and caution be taken to ensure that significant water sources, such as those located in very close proximity to this gravel pit extraction area, be protected for future generations. Dufferin has claimed if a problem was to occur they would supply a secondary water source. To who? For how long? From where?

In a worst case scenario if the aquifer is contaminated how will they compensate the community and what assurances do we have they won't just close up shop and let the lawyers argue for decades before taking responsibility or bankrupt this division of their company and leave the problem to local tax payers and the County to resolve at our expense?

CCOB is not alone in the Province fighting to protect fresh water resources. It should be commended for its efforts to ensure that this resource that supplies our growing community is protected. CCOB's ongoing efforts to obtain evidence and substantiated scientific data to support Dufferin's claims so it can be scrutinized in peer reviews should be a requirement prior to any development at the Paris site. To date I am not satisfied that it has been definitively proven that there will be no impacts and more scrutiny is required before digging into the water table of which they estimate they are within one metre at this time.