

The Honorable Jeff Yurek, Minister,

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

5th Floor, 777 Bay St.

minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

1-800-265-7638

Dear Mr. Yurek,

Congratulations on your new role as guardian of the environment for Ontario. I am sure you are familiar with some aspects of that from your previous role as Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, June 29, 2018 – November 5, 2018 and in particular about the unwillingness of Carmeuse Lime to properly **rehabilitate** their properties near Beachville.

As you are likely aware from letters sent to you in your former role, instead of returning their quarries to recreational or agricultural uses as stated in their original site plans, Carmeuse has a **secretive agreement** with Walker Industries who want to load the quarry at Beachville with **17.4 million tonnes of trash**. That clearly violates the site plan and good sense.

You should be opposed to Walker's dump plan on principle, both as the former Minister of Natural Affairs and as current Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. You have a third reason to oppose Walker's intended disaster – **your riding is downriver** from where Walker wants to mix residential, commercial, industrial and institutional garbage in a quarry where water spurts from the walls and bottom.

Please **stop the dump** in the interest of members of your riding, of people in Oxford and of all Ontarians.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

The Honorable Jeff Yurek, Minister,

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

5th Floor, 777 Bay St.

minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

1-800-265-7638

Dear Mr. Yurek,

I see you have been approached by the Lake Erie North Shore Landowners Association about their concerns for that part of the lower Great Lakes. Anyone in South-western Ontario should know that the lake is under multiple threats. I will leave to Kyle Cronk and his fellow **Lake Erie** shoreline residents to talk to you about the causes and effects of erosion. I would like you to think somewhat more broadly about the **threats to the lake** and to this part of the province.

Walker Industries has a proposal to build a **massive dump** on the banks of the Thames River, a heritage river. The water dumping from the Thames into the lower Great Lakes already carries **pollutants** which contribute largely to the water quality issues of Lake Erie. I would like you to halt the damage to the river and the resultant damage that the **millions of litres of leachate** which Walker proposes to pump from their dump into the Thames.

Lake Erie shore residents say “We’re very hopeful because” you are their “local guy and we’ve had a connection with him for the last five years (that he’s served as an MPP)”. (Dan Brown of Postmedia reported on this). Now as Minister of the Environment you can **protect the Thames**, conserve shorelines along Lake Erie and help the parks managed by the local Conservation Authorities to plan for a green future. That would mean stopping Walker’s dump, and I invite you to do that now.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

The Honorable Jeff Yurek, Minister,

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

5th Floor, 777 Bay St.

minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

1-800-265-7638

Dear Mr. Yurek,

When Kathleen Saylor of the Woodstock Sentinel-Review reported on June 27 about the “open house on the future of downtown”, she noted that its strengths include the heritage character as well as street festivals, cultural programming and events that take place.

Naturally, residents and business owners in Woodstock need to have apprehensions about **the dump** that Walker wants to build **upwind**. What would street festivals in Woodstock or Ingersoll be like with the **stench of rotting trash** wafting over it? How would the quality of life be impacted by the passing trucks of trash from Toronto? When the Conservation Authority shows that the source **water protection zones** around the dump in Zorra and South-west Oxford overlap with Woodstock’s, what “reasonable person” would remain confident in their tap water?

Walker’s dump will not help the economic growth of Woodstock or other Oxford towns. It will not improve the reputation of rural food products for which the county is famous. It will not assist in meeting the goals in your predecessors’ “Waste-Free Ontario Act” or “Made-in-Ontario Environmental Plan”. You should **stop it**.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

The Honorable Jeff Yurek, Minister,

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

5th Floor, 777 Bay St.

minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

1-800-265-7638

Dear Mr. Yurek,

To quote Ramona Gallagher of the Small Business Centre “small business in the community is the backbone of economic development”. Further, she adds, “Small business owners are buying from the community; the money they earn goes into the community”. Broader research proves her right in saying “small businesses are essential in helping the local economy grow and offer employment”.

Small businesses have been at the forefront of opposition in Oxford County to the **dump which Walker proposes to foist on local residents**. They and others know that **rotting garbage** will not produce economic development. Despite having a store-front in Ingersoll, Walker does not belong in our community where major players in the automotive industry achieve **zero waste** to landfill goals and where public events participate actively in a **transition to less waste**.

I add my voice to that of other residents and business owners: Walker’s planned dump does not improve the quality of life or facilitate business in Oxford. You should **prevent their dump plan** and I invite you to announce that soon.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

The Honorable Jeff Yurek, Minister,

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

5th Floor, 777 Bay St.

minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

1-800-265-7638

Dear Mr. Yurek,

The transportation and dumping of **garbage is sure in the news!** The 103 containers accumulated in the Philippines which have so angered their President Duterte are now back in Canada, after two years of dumping and five years of wrangling between nations. Imagine their anger had those containers numbered 170 every day!

Actually, I can imagine that anger, because the people of Oxford are angered that anyone would consider dumping vast quantities of trash daily and putting contaminated soil on top of it in the Thames River Valley close to the headwaters.

Similarly, I can imagine your dismay as Minister of the Environment that anyone would want to **risk** contamination of a river used for drinking, irrigation of crops, watering of animals, fishing, pleasure boating, and other forms of recreation. And, I can imagine your **rejection** of the notion that 240 or more trucks would pummel the 401 every day of the week. As a former Minister of Transportation you know that that will cost in road repairs, accident damage and human lives.

So it is not hard to imagine that you will find more than enough reasons to say "NO" to Walker's plan to haul waste into the upper reaches of the Thames, while it is hard to imagine why Ministers of the Environment in previous governments did not act as you can: **Stop the dump!**

Sincerely,

Name:

Address: