

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

5th Floor, 777 Bay St., Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Tel. 416-314-6790 or 1-800-265-7638

Email: [jeff.yurek@pc.ola.org](mailto:jeff.yurek@pc.ola.org)

Dear Mr. Yurek,

The potential hazards of making a *limestone quarry in Zorra* into a dump that sits so close to the Thames river and watershed should have been obvious from the start. I can't believe it got this far.

Walker says that their liner will keep us safe. They cannot guarantee that. Liners, like everything else deteriorate. So how long is safe? 10 years? 20? Nothing has been tested for longer than that. This is just ***too much risk*** when you consider the damage that a leak into our water supply would cause.

And then there is the basic question as to why Oxford County should become a dump because Toronto needs a solution to their garbage problem. Many of their high-rise apartment/condo buildings don't even recycle!

The *added traffic, noise, and smell* will affect the lives of everyone in Ingersoll and Beachville, an area in the heart of beautiful Oxford County prime farmland. Why should they have to deal with an industrial level dump site because Toronto just wants their garbage to go away. We are not away - we live here.

I believe there is a bill under consideration giving municipalities a say in where dumps and gravel pits can be located. I live a neighbouring community, and I say "NO" to the dump.

*A potential leak into our aquifer is a risk not worth taking.*

I hope that you will also say "NO" to the dump.

Sincerely,

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Dear Mr. Yurek,

On February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, a group of artists gathered to sing “No” to Walker’s planned dump in Zorra. It was astonishing to see so much talent gathering in one place. Audience too! The room was packed.

Check it out! - <https://youtu.be/lFpieT739fQ>

This is indicative of rural Ontario and Oxford in particular: Cultural industries are alive and well and creating economic and entertainment value for the province. This is not a surprise for anyone aware of the 20-year history of the Canterbury music festival in Oxford, or the work of Stratford, Ontario, to bring tourists from all over the province and far beyond to Southwestern Ontario, even the USA, for cultural events.

Walker’s planned dump could have negative effects on these economic engines

- Who wants to attend outdoor music events when the wind carries the *stench of a dump*?
- Who wants to drive Embro Road when *420 garbage scows* travel the road with already high car and truck volumes? (And yes, in their EA documents, Mr. Yurek, Walker has finally counted the trucks hauling contaminated soil into the site in their total truck trips!)
- Who wants to live and/or work in a community known as one of *Ontario’s largest garbage heaps*?

It makes no economic sense to have a dump in Oxford for Toronto’s trash.

I invite you, Minister Yurek, to turn down Walker’s plan to build a dump in Zorra!

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Dear Mr. Yurek,

There is a plan to build a massive dump, 22 ,000, 000 tonnes of trash in Zorra. That's up from their earlier announced 17, 400 000 tonnes of trash. It's a bad project no matter what the number.

You see, residents of Zorra have said "No" to the dump already. In a statistically valid survey conducted by a researcher now at UWO, there is an important number: *100% of Zorra residents said that they are opposed to a dump in Zorra when randomly surveyed.*

Their opposition to the dump has support all over Oxford County as the survey also reveals. Their opposition to the dump also has the solidarity of people from all over rural and urban Ontario as the more than 132 000 letters sent to Queen's Park reveal.

Walker's plan to construct a dump on the banks of the Thames, adjacent to source water protection zones and community wells makes no sense.

I ask you to respect the will of people living in Southwestern Ontario and that of others who oppose the dump in Zorra. Say "NO" today.

Thank you,

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Dear Mr. Yurek,

Below is part of the Joint Municipal Coordinating Committee's public response to Walkers' EA release. The Joint Municipal Coordinating Committee is the Mayors and staff from Zorra Township, the Town of Ingersoll, South-West Oxford Township and Oxford County. You will note the following quotation:

*“Last month, the JMCC added a detailed briefing and a high-level infographic to its website at [www.oxfordreviewteam.ca](http://www.oxfordreviewteam.ca) to help the community understand this stage of the environmental assessment. If there are other ways we can support you in making a meaningful contribution to this process, please reach out to your elected officials or email us at [info@oxfordreviewteam.ca](mailto:info@oxfordreviewteam.ca).”*

You can understand why the community might appreciate a high-level overview of Walker's 6 000 pages demanding a dump in Zorra. It's a long and technical read. But you will also understand that the community is opposed to the dump. You have been receiving mail from Ontario residents including numerous Oxfordians in your previous roles as Minister of Transportation and Minister of Natural Resources as well as in your current position. Their request to you has been simple: Say “No” to a dump in Zorra.

I add my voice to those today.

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Dear Mr. Yurek,

You have seen the opinions of lots of people regarding a dump in Zorra. You might not have seen this one:

When the plan began 6 years ago, Zorra sought legal counsel, committees where set up i.e. Joint Municipal Coordinating Committee, Community Liaison Committee and funding was secured for peer review.

Going forward as a council we need to build on steps taken, and be aware of changing legislation and the opportunities that this may provide us.

I would call on the public to continue with the research, the rallies, the public posts, ensure that the results are passed on to Municipal councillors, County Councillors, Ernie Hardeman ...

Were he asked today, he would likely include you in the list of people to convey results of rallies, public posts and results.

Across Ontario, nearly 150 communities are calling for changing legislation. They have passed resolutions demanding the say on major projects, like dumps for instance, to be given to local municipalities. After all, who lives with the results?

There are multiple opportunities for you to prevent a dump in Zorra -

- Reject Walker's request for approval of a dump in Zorra
- Change environmental legislation in Ontario so that a dump in Zorra would not be legal let alone needed
- Create regulations which will prevent the dump in Zorra
- Give municipalities the right to approve or to deny – and by the way, it's a resounding NO if you ask me – dumps or other harmful projects.

Regulation or legislation would be just fine. Just stop the dump!

Name:

Address