



c/o 10780 Concession #3, Zephyr, ON, L0E 1T0
www.northdurhamnature.com

February 21st, 2020

Mayor Dave Barton
Township of Uxbridge
51 Toronto St. S.
Uxbridge, ON, L9P 1T1

Dear Mayor Barton,

The membership of North Durham Nature has grave concerns about this proposed application particularly with respect to the future of natural habitat within the Uxbridge moraine should it be approved.

North Durham Nature is a non-profit club with 100 + members who enjoy experiencing the natural heritage of the Uxbridge area. The club uses guided walks, talks and conservation related projects to fulfill its mandate which is: *“To foster awareness and appreciation of nature through education, observation and experience. To promote the protection and conservation of the environment through community activities.”* It is our understanding that the Oak Ridges Moraine Act protects further development of gravel pits and that these pits once emptied are to be restored to a natural state linking with other natural areas. If the township removes a portion of Millers property from this pit for further industrial use the future habitat for wildlife is lost. If fill (1 million cubic metres over ten years) is allowed to be brought into the site the additional activity created will also have an impact on wildlife in the area.

We are also very concerned about the composition of the fill and how contaminated it might be. The proposal states that the fill will come from Miller’s road projects and not from other commercial sites. How do we really know where the fill originates and how much monitoring will be done to ensure that it is not contaminated?

In 2012 the township of Uxbridge participated in a joint planning exercise with the Oak Ridges Moraine foundation, Green Durham, TRCA and Ontario Nature producing a report by Ontario Nature “Bioregional Planning for Aggregate Extraction in the Townships of Uxbridge and Scugog“. In this report this present scenario was identified as a future concern and recommendations were made to the province (page 53 – 5.1 Rehabilitation and 54 - 5.2 Fill Importation.). Given the positive conservation direction the township of Uxbridge has been involved in we are encouraged that this application will not be accepted and that the township will focus on encouraging rehabilitation of pits rather than development and the subsequent loss of more habitat for natural heritage values.

When Miller was granted its ARA licence, was it committed to rehabilitating all of the pit at the end of its excavated life to naturalized vegetation? If so then the proposal would reduce the area of naturalized vegetation.

Given the positive conservation direction the township of Uxbridge has been involved in, it is our belief that the Miller application should not be accepted. We feel that the township needs to focus on encouraging rehabilitation of pits rather than development and the subsequent loss of more habitat for natural heritage values.

Sincerely,

North Durham Nature
Cara Gregory – President, Derek Connelly – Past President

