

Sept 18, 2023

Good evening Chair Sharman, Members of Committee, City Staff & the Burlington community,

Thank you for this opportunity. BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association opposes the proposed expansion of the Burlington Nelson Quarry. We do so for a multitude of important reasons, many of which have already been provided to you via our prior submission ((#6) included in appendix B of the report.)

Respectful of your time, I won't repeat those reasons, but instead offer the following additional comments relevant to the global and local climate **emergency** context, respectful of your consideration.

As we're gathered here this evening, you may be aware that global leaders are also preparing to convene, this time in New York in two days time for yet another global Climate Summit. The United Nations Secretary (General Antonio Guterres) is calling on every leader (**including those in cities**), to come up with new, tangible and credible climate action to address the **unprecedented pace of change and global devastation** that is happening **NOW**.

He emphasizes that the price of entry is **non-negotiable** – only credible, serious and new climate action and **nature-based solutions** will move the needle forward in responding to the urgency of the climate crisis. No-nonsense. No exceptions. No compromises. No back-sliders, greenwashers, or blame-shifters.

This is where we are at globally.

And recognizing that about one-third of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions needed in the next decade could be achieved by **conserving and restoring natural spaces** to help with the absorption of carbon emissions, **any** proposed destruction of, **or** opportunity to protect nature **in any community, including here in Burlington is more critical than ever before.**

And so I'm hopeful that all of you will agree that there is only one **non-negotiable** path forward for this issue- the Mount Nemo lands **cannot** be further destroyed. They have been compromised enough.

And if the overarching climate emergency and biodiversity crisis are not compelling enough reasons, certainly the long list of fact-based outstanding concerns outlined in the JART report will.

Whether it be the cited climate implications, implications for wetland ecosystems, streamflow and aquifers, other species entitled to keep their home there including those that are endangered, air

quality, other natural heritage concerns, plus the loss of agricultural lands, respect for archaeological and cultural heritage, and more - clearly this is not a proposal that can be advanced.

Leaders today such as yourselves cannot be swayed by short-term thinking and arguments based on a narrow sector of economic activity, or the false argument that taking action on climate hurts the economy. The real costs of climate change are inaction, and the stakes have never been higher.

Please continue to apply your leadership and commitment to create a better, more sustainable today and tomorrow for Burlington by doing all within your authority at the OLT to deny this proposed quarry expansion.

Thank you for considering this input, and thank you to the dedicated, hardworking volunteers at CORE, and previously PERL, for championing this critical issue.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Schnurr".

Amy Schnurr
Executive Director
BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association