

OBSERVER

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This Weekend

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| Friday |  |
| 3° | |
| Saturday |  |
| 6° | |
| Sunday |  |
| 7° | |



■ Aggregate industry seeks fair and balanced coverage

To the Editor,
 Capital Paving takes strong exception to the arguments in Steve Kannon's column of October 8, which include unsubstantiated allegations made by Gravel Watch, without providing the aggregate industry an opportunity to respond. Our industry is subject to one of the most rigorous approval processes in

Ontario, with more than 25 pieces of legislation to be satisfied. The Aggregate Resources Act and the Planning Act are designed to ensure the public is protected from negative impacts. Furthermore, municipalities set policies for aggregate approvals. If these policies are satisfied, there's no fair reason to deny an application, even in the face of public opposition. Virtually all aggregate applications have public opposition. The OMB/LPAT adjudicative body does not "force through poor

policies" as the editorial alleges. It reviews applications for conformity to legislation and has, in fact, ruled against aggregate applications – including in Woolwich Township (Conestogo). Decisions are made using factual evidence from qualified, expert witnesses. The column states that "permanent closures [of gravel pits] are beyond the pale." This is incorrect. As examples, the Home Hardware store in St. Jacobs, Snyder's Flats conservation area and St. Johns-Kilmarnock School are all located on former

aggregate sites. There's a need for more aggregate resources to support growth in the Kitchener-Waterloo and Guelph-Wellington areas. Municipalities in and around the GTA are now using three times more aggregates than is currently being replaced with new reserves. Opponents argue that

proposed pits will create negative water, air, environmental, cultural and other impacts on the local community. Yet it's rare to read any news stories of such impacts with existing aggregate operations. Not reported in the Observer thus far are the region and township's independent reviews completed to date agreeing that, with

mitigation, there will be no negative air, water, noise, agriculture, visual and cultural heritage impacts from Capital's proposed Shantz Station Pit. Capital requests that news outlets provide fair and balanced coverage of our pit application.

George Lourenco
 CAPITAL PAVING

LETTER TO THE EDITOR