

# Residents Make Presentation to Council

*By Maurice Rees*

Even though Environment Minister, Iain Rankin, has halted the application process by OSCO Aggregates Ltd to expand its quarry operations in Little Dyke, Ian MacFaddin, head of the Little Dyke residents association, MacFaddin feels the have a long fight ahead of them. Rankin's July 4, 2017 letter to Dave Bancroft, OSCO General Manager stated he is halting the process because OSCO is not in compliance with the Environment Act and regulations.

MacFaddin and colleagues make a presentation to Colchester County on August 1st. OSCO Aggregates Limited, owned by Irving, has applied to the Nova Scotia Department of Environment for an environmental assessment in order to expand its current operations by 30.5 hectares (75.4 acres) to support continued extraction and production of aggregates of between 50,000 and 250,000 tonnes per year.

The Dillon Consulting report which accompanied OSCO application to Environment stated there was no waterway or fish habitat within the areas they wanted to expand the operation. However, when the matter was discussed at council in June, Councillor Taggart

stated there is in fact a waterway in the area. (A waterway is defined as a brook that does not dry out in summer). Taggart expanded his comments in June to say that in his youthful days he caught a lot of fish in the brook.

Rankin's letter to OSCO stated it must comply with his Directive dated June 30, 2017 and recommended OSCO complete breeding bird survey and early season botanical surveys for 2017.

During the presentation the group asked council to consider a noise by-law, but were informed the municipality's by-law was rescinded in 1999, on recommendation of the RCMP.

During August residents have undertaken an initiative to erect roadside signage "STOP the Irving OSCO gravel pit, save our Wetlands, save Little Dyke Lake". Linda Harrington submitted a story and accompanying photo with Larry & Nancy Jennings.

She also posted the story and photo on the Shoreline Journal's Facebook page. From August 13th to August 20th, the posting has gained traction with 12,546 people becoming engaged with several very intense postings. A transcript of the comments is printed below.

# Enough is Enough!

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they have watched neighbours forced from their home due to the dust, noise and contaminated well water. They listen to a wash plant/screener running from 5:30am until dark each day and endure increased truck traffic by their home at all hours of the day.

"We feel imprisoned on our one acre of rural land and can't imagine what this expansion will mean for us," says Nancy. "But we are no longer alone. The entire community is affected by the noise and increased traffic." Members of the Glenholme/Little Dyke Residents Association have called on the province to put a stop to the 75-acre expansion of the nearby gravel pit by Irving-owned OSCO. They have approached Community Council recently and signs of protest are being erected throughout the community. Putting up a sign

daily caravan of large tandem haulers and belly dumpers. We are, however, truly appreciative of the courtesy and respect most of these independent truck drivers demonstrate on their many runs in such close proximity to our house each day. Occasionally, there will be some overzealous use of jake brakes."

Nancy and Larry continued to live with the idea this would soon be over when the gravel ran out. It was at an information session held in April, when the Jennings' first learned the gravel washing/crushing equipment was permanent, the pit operations would be expanded to another 75 acres and there was no end in sight. "That's when it became personal," says Nancy. "When will enough be enough?" The Jennings family says

on her lawn is what got Nancy thinking it was time to speak up. "When you stick your neck out to make a statement, you fear retaliation in such a small community but it must be done," she says with sadness. "People ask why we never spoke up before, having lived close to the gravel pits for many years and so we both decided it was time to tell our story. We honestly kept hoping it would come to an end but now we see it isn't going away. Larry and I don't want people to think we weren't bothered by it because we certainly were. And most importantly, we want it to stop so we can retire here, have our grandchildren come and visit, and enjoy peace and quiet in our new screen room."

The communities of Glenholme and Little Dyke certainly have more than their share of gravel pits and it leaves many concerned citizens saying, "Enough is enough!"

# "Enough is Enough" Facebook Transcript

On August 13th, after Linda Harrington posted the photo and story about Larry and Nancy Jennings "Enough is Enough" story (also see page 1), the Shoreline Journal's Facebook page lit up like a house afire, and it continued for the entire week. As of Sunday morning, August 20th a total of 12,546 people had been engaged, with an ongoing sometimes very intense personal debate.

Because the subject is very important to residents of Little Dyke and Hon Iain Rankin, Minister of Environment stepped into the matter by issuing a letter on July 4th suspending OSCO's environmental assessment of proposed activity for Pit No 4, we decided to print a transcript of all reader's comments from August 13 to August 20th.

We sorted the comments based on the "date stamp" when they were made. Some responses don't appear to connect to the comment preceding it. This is because a reply might have been made to a comment posted a day earlier. Because social media is a public record, we feel comfortable publishing here. We also wanted to let residents who don't do Facebook or social media know what is being said about OSCO's Pit 4 project in Little Dyke.

## The complete transcript follows:

August 13 at 7:45pm: **Pam Bowers:** Good for you guys. Like I said before if you need me to lay on the road beside you call.  
August 13 at 7:59pm: **Jennifer MacAulay:** This is terrible Nancy. I didn't realize the extent of what has been going on.  
August 13 at 8:01pm: **Rhonda Adams:** Way to go Larry and Nancy!!! Stand for your land, clearly those big companies don't give a s#%t about your community... I hope for the future of Little Dyke's residents this will come to a stop.  
August 13 at 8:08pm: **Tonya Chmiel-Dort:** I was shocked to see how they expanded on the road across from you as well. I can't believe it's allowed to happen in residential areas. Good luck.  
August 13 at 8:17pm: **Kathy Murphy:** I agree it need to go public.  
August 13 at 8:23pm: **Lynne Frances Murphy:** Well said Nancy! Hopefully all of community will stand behind us, with us for the good of the lake and beach because these too will be affected. The lake and the wetlands are fed by under ground springs which are sensitive to any changes to the water table. One of our members made a beautiful video which is very informative I would like to see it made public on Facebook so you could all see just what we stand to lose.  
August 13 at 8:35pm: **Ruth Patriquin:** It is sad to see the land chewed up and gone forever. I wouldn't want it in my backyard  
August 13 at 9:41pm: **Danny Porter:** Hard to see stuff like this going on back home!!! Why can't they use the pit in Folly ?? Why on earth would anyone want to muck up Little Dyke????  
August 13 at 10:18pm: **Barbara Pratt:** Its a shame not all the facts are stated I would love to c that video as well was it made by a drone perhaps Lynne Frances Murphy..  
August 13 at 10:21pm: **Karen Ripley Congdon:** Gravel pits are worse then so called "clear cutting" scars on the earth. Be strong.  
August 13 at 10:30pm: **Sherry Patriquin:** So sad to see the area being destroyed. Thanks for sharing your experience. I hope this is resolved so the environment is saved.  
August 13 at 10:59pm: **Alicia Bowers:** Hope all works out. Watch your property lines, Irving will be watching.  
August 13 at 11:19pm: **Barbara Pratt:** They do reclamation.. People are only getting part of the

facts and saying Irving wants to hurt wetlands is a lie they help and support ducks unlimited to save wetlands... lam dissappointed how media only shares part of facts and not hole stories the hole story isnt being shared about the well ithier osco didnt damage it at it was the home owner...  
August 13 at 11:30pm: **Alicia Bowers:** Just saying watch your property and land deed.  
August 13 at 11:33pm: **Alicia Bowers:** You in Little Dyke?  
August 13 at 11:44pm: **Barbara Pratt:** I have lived in the area my hole life  
August 13 at 11:46pm: **Barbara Pratt:** They wont be anywhere near the lake and wetlands are protected pit has been there 30 years and the pit they are trying to go into is a existing gravel pit.  
August 13 at 11:53pm: **Alicia Bowers:** You live where?  
August 13 at 11:54pm: **Barbara Pratt:** Debert grew up in great village and little dyke my family lives there as well my nan uested to. Do u live on the lake or on littledyke  
August 14 at 6:34am: **Gladys Robbins:** Sweeeeeeee job  
August 14 at 8:26am: **Derald Lewis:** Hope all goes well with this as I spent most of my younger days enjoying the Little Dyke area, as I was brought up in Glenholme.  
August 14 at 8:27am: **Linda Harrington:** The Shoreline is always willing to give everyone a voice. This was one family's story of what their life has been like. If OSCO wants to tell their story they can contact The Shoreline Journal any time.  
August 14 at 8:27am: **Barbara Pratt:** Its just a shame the lies people tell to hurt people and they jse media to do it... Nothing on you Linda Harrington or the shoreline. The pit has been there 30 years and never a issue they propose to by a existing pit and bam all of a sudden there is a issue. No one ever had a issue with kids partying in gravel pits burning stuff getting drunk and high and driving home... But when people are trying to provide for their families its a issue... But that is my opinion.  
August 14 at 8:44am: **Jacquelyn Murphy:** I think this picture should just how near the lake and wetlands the pit is proposed to expand to.  
August 14 at 9:01am: **Leah Dawn Roy:** what a shame! good on you for being patient and polite neighbors. money means more than anything to too many people now a days & it's sad that you've lost your peace & quiet (especially at 5,30am!!!).

you are such a patient & sweet woman who deserves quiet after a busy day with work! best of luck!  
August 14 at 9:22am: **The Shoreline Journal in Nova Scotia:** As publisher, I welcome content from all sides, as we want everyone to be able to tell their story. Balanced reporting is what "works best" in the interests of the community, or on any topic. Interesting to note the Minister put a stop to the proceedings as the Engineering / Consultants' report was flawed in several areas and the company was not currently in compliance. Just ask Councillor Tom Taggart, who says as a youth he caught many fish in the brook within the area, whereas Dillon Consulting said there were no waterways and no fish habitat. We need responsible resource development, but the environment and "quality of life" must supercede all other considerations. Once there is resource recovery activity the rules and regulations not only must be enforced, but be enforceable.  
August 14 at 9:37am: **Barbara Pratt:** I used to swim in the Great Village river and be able to dive off rocks but do to environmental changes cant do that anymore its been a long time since tom was a youth so the changes coukd have happend the same way they did with the great village river... Yes everyone has a opnion but at some point the foolishness needs to stop.. No one or nothing has been hurt by gravel pits there for over 30 years so why would that change now?  
August 14 at 9:38am: **Amy Hutt:** I live on the lake. I enjoy all that the lake and surrounding area offers. I have been enjoying this area for 20 years now. This gravel pit expansion affects me greatly! Increased traffic on a substandard road, they are not proactive in how they will treat the wildlife and birds in the area. They are going to stay 0.5 metres above the water table...but figure that out as they start digging. They want to run 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and it will be 500 metres from my house. Osco has to prove that they are protecting the environment, the community rather than focused on how they are going to pad their own pockets. In the last few months we have seen fuel spills that they were burying, cleaning equipment in active waterways, they didn't have a proper sewer for the house they moved into the pit and moving into property that was not part of their agreements with the government. I'm all for responsible jobs and economic growth but it can't be at the expense of communities!!

August 14 at 4:29pm: **Lynne Frances Murphy:** No it wasn't!!!!  
August 14 at 4:31pm: **Barbara Pratt:** No it wanst what?  
August 14 at 4:37pm: **Lynne Frances Murphy:** Video was not made by a drone and is beautifully done.  
August 14 at 6:21pm: **Darren Lynds:** Osco is only doing the work now because they were forced too...keep the pressure on irving..be the same as the sawmills...pack them up and move when everything is gone  
August 14 at 6:21pm: **Barbara Pratt:** Its the guys at that work there that you all are trying to hurt maybe think of them and their families as well. Its not all about selfishness or greed.  
August 14 at 6:59pm: **Barbara Pratt:** Would love to c  
August 14 at 7:26pm: **Barbara Pratt:** The trucks dont go by the lake at all.. If there is a truck its because the residents called for a load of something the pit they are looking at isnt near your house and its already a existing pit. Its not they they are getting the pit right across from your house... And if u wanna squawk about environment maybe look at the pit dot owns that has piles of old ashfullt and stuff in it that is long term more damage then the pit does... There are 2 sides to every coin.. Its just a shame the slander and hate that this has all generated... Im dissappointed  
August 14 at 7:38pm: **Kathy Murphy:** The bottom line is we live in Little Dyke and it effort us all and the general area. I am showing no hatred at all I try not to say a lot as our life has been so busy but to say the residents here are greedy and selfish is not fair. That all I am saying on the matter . The article that Nancy and Larry wrote was very good and they are speaking from their heart.  
August 14 at 8:25pm: **Barbara Pratt:** Saying that people were forced from their home is a lie and saying that they hurt peoples wells is a lie as well.. That is what iam saying but not all facts are correct.  
August 14 at 8:54pm: **The Shoreline Journal in Nova Scotia:** I am publisher of the Shoreline Journal and monitor our Facebook Page and all comments. I enjoy spirited debate on this and any subject. Some people are passionate about the outcome of OSCO pit proposal for Little Dyke. All I ask is for everyone to be polite and respectful in all the comments, regardless who makes them. I WILL NOT TOLERATE calling people liars. If that persists and people are not cordial and polite, I will take measures to rectify the situation, even if it requires me to block certain people. I am putting everyone on notice, that if rudeness and allegations of lying persits, those people will not only be blocked, but I will author an article in the next issue stating who was blocked, why and will include their photo.  
August 14 at 8:59pm: **The Shoreline Journal in Nova Scotia:** I have captured the photos, of those who have been "somewhat" out of line so far. Wish to have your photo in the next issue of the Shoreline keep up the rudeness. Those who are professional and polite need not to worry.  
August 14 at 9:02pm: **Barbara Pratt:** I have simply stated my

opnion but i will not say anything else i do not mean harm or hurt feelings to anyone. I do apologise if i have hurt feelings but i my self im directly impacted as well but i will no longer respond to this as i seem to have upset people.  
August 14 at 9:33pm: **The Shoreline Journal in Nova Scotia:** Go ahead express your opinion, as we need spirited discussion. It's not about hurting people feelings. It it about being inconsiderate and calling "people liars". Yes, you might be impacted as your husband works there as a supervisor and I understand that, but everyone will be impacted. What "must rule" is quality of life, and protection of the economy, which has a greater impact in a global basis and the "global" concern must start at home. Far better to save the environment than to please "one or two families" whose income might be effected if the project was not allowed to expand. Keep expressing your thoughts. All I ask is you be polite.  
August 14 at 9:35pm: **The Shoreline Journal in Nova Scotia:** I meant to say "environment" rather than "protection of the economy" . Sorry for those who are following the discussion.  
August 14 at 9:51pm: **Kathy Murphy:** I know this is hard on you to Barb. We all need to work and feed our families I fully understand that But I do not think the residents here are the ones full of greed at all. If wanting to keep our road safe, not wanting our property value to go down and for wanting to protect the environment here if this is selfless and greedy then we are guilty of that. Like I said many times you can not fully understand unless you live there.  
August 14 at 10:22pm: **Leora Grue:** Hi Nancy  
August 15 at 10:22am: **Jeremy Thompson:** Least they could do is fix the road theyve beat to pieces  
August 15 at 1:44pm: **Ted Jordan:** At taxpayer expense, not from IRVING profit.  
August 15 at 2:20pm: **Barbara Pratt:** Do u use the rd? Then yes at taxpayer expense the hwys are paved at tax payer expense and trucks of all kinds use them.  
August 15 at 2:20pm: **Barbara Pratt:** That statement doesn't even make sense.  
August 15 at 2:46pm: **Barbara Pratt:** I believe the rd is due to be paved this year or next.  
August 15 at 5:23pm: **Bev Sumpter:** I grew up in Glenholme and remember this whole area of Little Dyke with only a handful of families and it was farmland...such a shame to see it being destroyed by a huge company like Irving..  
August 15 at 7:42pm: **Ted Jordan:** Barbara Pratt, take a look at Masstown Market. They paid out of their profit for part of the roadwork that allows them to make that profit. The Little dyke road gets beaten up by Tri Axle trucks carrying loads that road was never designed for. The Irving's are from New Brunswick, the Osco profits go there, we as Nova Scotians are meantime paying the full price to repair what they in effect break, let alone what we pay in the cost of living with the pollution from this operation.  
August 15 at 7:44pm:

**Barbara Pratt:** that road is used by truck drivers all over the province it keeps people in a job and iam sure helps the local resorants as well. irving as a hole and employer is one of the #1 employers for canada and usa.  
August 15 at 7:44pm: **Barbara Pratt:** go the other way there is more then one way to get to the lake.  
August 17 at 5:07pm: **Lynne Frances Murphy:** You know I keep coming back to this site to read the comments and I am SAD! It is not only the new pit, it's not only the ones that they are still using, it's ALL of them. The middle of the horseshoe is one huge mess. Drive through Glenholme and look left and right pit pit pit! Drive around the loop look left and right pit pit pit. I really don't think we need , want or should have to live surrounded by this raping of Little Dyke. They say they will reclaim the land well I for one will be on the other side of the grass by the time this happens. I would like to reclaim now in fact I would just as soon see it all replanted and protected  
August 17 9:52pm: **Barbara Pratt:** so are you ok with teens partying in the proposed pit and getting drunk and high getting on 4 wheelers dirtbikes and in cars and trucks and driving home...leaving garbage laying around and stuff no one ever complained about that..  
August 17 9:53pm: **Jacquelyn Murphy:** One or two piy parties during a summer ( which by the way there have been none this year) verses 20 years of rock crushing, noise , dirt , loss of wild life, and beautiful land scape is no comparison  
August 18 8:13pm: **Charlene Jordan:** Barbara Pratt, if you think Irving has anything other than the almighty dollar as their priority, then you are incredibly naive my dear. Your husband earns mere dollars but Irving earns Millions. If your husband loses his job as a result of Irving not being able to rape and pillage a new Gravel Pit we will collectively help your husband find a new job.  
August 18 8:57pm: **Ted Jordan:** You are avoiding the point, they are profiting at our expense. Period.  
August 18 9:05pm: **Barbara Pratt:** They employ many people as a company and well there is roads all around the country that have heavy levels of truck traffic and we as tax payers pay to fix those roads as well we also as tax payers pay for our pm to fly around on vacation and no one seems to cry about that.. It is what it is many of the truck drivers that come to that pit have jobs and families to support as well. Its not just about little dyke or u or me its about all the people that it impacts u think u are trying to hurt irving your not your trying to hurt the little guy and that is what my point is and YES its personal.  
August 21 7:54pm: **Lynne Frances Murphy:** Years ago I worked at Kent Homes also Kenwood Kitchens both Irving companies. They are no longer in operation and hundreds of people lost their jobs. These plants did not go out of business merely changed locations right to New Brunswick. Be careful where you put your loyalty we will still be here when they are long gone.