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Open Letter to the citizens of Manitowoc Wisconsin

People will often say "it is a small world". This phrase is usually reserved for a chance meeting of someone who is related by friends, geography or family they have now just happened upon while in some remote location on vacation or business, or when you find your new co-worker grew up next door to your Uncle three states away.

Oxford County Ontario is certainly removed from Manitowoc Wisconsin by a couple of states an entire border and a lot of miles, however it is a small world, because Manitowoc and Oxford County share something. Oxford County is home to lime quarrying.

One such lime quarry is over one hundred years old and it is growing. We the citizens of Oxford County find little offence in the quarry, once a day or so a small rumble might be felt from a blast, and some homes in the immediate area will often have some fine dust lay on their cars or window sills. The operation also employs quite a few of our residents. The mine is less than 1/2 a mile from the village of Beachville, less than a mile from the Town Of Ingersoll, adjacent to prime farm land and a cemetery.

There is a further connection between our quarry and an operation near you; both are owned by **Carmeuse Lime**, a company headquartered in the country of Belgium. Carmeuse is a very large mining company with 90 locations worldwide.

In The province of Ontario, Canada there are policies, and regulations that govern the open pit mining of resources like lime. I will not go into depth but the part that is important to this correspondence is, **each proposed mining operation must submit a plan for rehabilitation of the land they propose to use and follow that plan when the quarry is 'spent'**. In Oxford County the majority of our land is high quality agricultural land, and the land this quarry is operating on is no different. Carmeuse must have and does have a rehabilitation plan, Carmeuse further states on their website that they are good corporate citizens and concerned with the environment.

Carmeuse Lime has entered into an agreement with Walker Environmental Group to use one of the mining pits that no longer produces lime as a garbage landfill that will be the **fourth largest** in Canada. **This landfill will not service Oxford County as we have facility for this already.** This landfill will accept garbage from all parts of Ontario, including the largest city in Canada, Toronto.

A mine near a couple of towns and prime agricultural land is a somewhat unpleasant reality that can be tolerated, and the intention that the land will be returned to a decent usable state is anticipated, a landfill however is quite different.

Landfills stink and that fact alone should prevent one from being near 2 towns and a cemetery, however there is a much more dangerous problem. **All landfills produce a toxic cocktail called Leachate.** This leachate is the result of rain, melting snow, and ground water, soaking through the garbage and picking

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up the nasty chemicals it contains. Oxford County supplies all residents' water from wells and these wells are in the same limestone that Carmeuse digs out of the ground.

Lime rock has a tendency to be worn away over time by the slight acidity in rain water. This wearing is often seen as holes and channels through the rock, even underground rivers and pools. When the leachate leaks from the landfill it may enter these channels and end up in our drinking water. This danger should and must keep garbage from being placed in limestone quarries.

Oxford County is an agricultural community, an industrial community and a mining community and we are used to dealing with what is necessary to provide jobs to our residents and we successfully integrate our lives, with different corporations in order that we can all be successful. A Landfill is quite different; the existence of the project will threaten our lives and those of generations to come. The burden of our good community accepting trash from other communities that for many reasons chose not to control their trash within their region is unfair and as stated above dangerous.

This letter has two purposes, first we are informing your community that Carmeuse Lime has proceeded down the path to not follow the planned rehabilitation plan, instead decided to allow the dumping of trash next to our communities. Your community should consider the consequence of the landfill plan in Oxford County. If successful what it might mean to Carmeuse Lime when they are done mining your quarry? **Second we would like your Municipality to write a letter to Carmeuse Lime inquiring about the plans in Oxford County, and expressing your concerns for your community's safety and wellbeing.**

Included with today's correspondence is an information package it will further explain the project and the objections of the Municipalities and citizens of Oxford County. Please use this letter and the attached info to protect your community and help us protect ours,

Contact Carmeuse

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Thank You,

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