



How to Stop the Dump

Walker Industries needs approval from three Oxford municipalities just to get their plan for 17.5 million tonnes of trash on the banks of the Thames River and adjacent to local drinking water onto the desk of the Minister of the Environment. Our community has been clear: **No means NO**. But it needs to be said again and again. Every voice counts, - including yours.

Since you want to stop the dump, you can:

1. Review below the many *Reasons to Reject Walker's Dump*
2. Pick two or three that mean the most to you or to your councillor.
3. Add your personal experience. How will Walker's dump negatively impact you and your family?
4. Call or email your councillor. See links below.
5. Copy your email or your main points to Walker. They are required to answer and to forward your comments to the Ministry of the Environment to consider too. See this link below, too.

Reasons to Reject Walker's Dump

The points below come from the work of experts of the Joint Review Team hired by our municipal governments. Any one of them should be enough to prove that Walker's dump plan is unsolicited, unwanted, unnecessary, and undesirable. And that its safety is unproven. Pick a few that are more important for you.

- Walker's documents do not fully explain the impact of their dump on prime agricultural land. Oxford's prime farmland is a highly valuable resource, produces food necessary to sustain Ontario's health and economy, and should not be ruined by a dump on or near it.
- Air quality, already an historical concern from local mineral extraction and processing, could be worsened by diesel fumes, odours from the dump and by the stink from the leachate ponds. The lifestyles and activities of residents and institutions, e.g., a church with summer outdoor children's programs, within 1000 m of the proposed dump should have been examined and assessed more closely for a comprehensive understanding of the effects of landfill air quality emissions. And what about homes in the vicinity?
- The Thames River for canoeing and kayaking, angling, walking trails and the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery have not received the consideration they deserve. Cultural heritage values, including significant views have not been described. These are the landscapes we look at daily.
- Families honour the memories of generations and of those fallen from the during two World Wars in several cemeteries near the quarry. A dump there is disrespectful and dishonours those who died to protect our democratic right to say "No".
- Fish populations in the river, land species along the riverbanks, and bird populations are not studied sufficiently. Of note, Blandings turtles, recently reintroduced by UTRCA, are an endangered species. Insufficiently treated leachate in the river could only have a negative impact on aquatic fauna that is part of a healthy ecosystem. How can Walker claim otherwise? All these species are key features of the environment; interacting with them gives us added quality of life. Loss of them is loss to us.

- Who will pay for up to an expected century of leachate treatment when the dump is closed and it's no longer profitable for Walker to do so? This decision will impact multiple generations and pass on the burden of clean-up to them.
- The Peer Review Team's expert Economics "reviewer found the Economic and Financial Assessment to be non-compliant [...] as it does not provide a *net effects analysis* that shows the net financial impact to the County and the Township as a result of the change in revenue and expenditures occasioned by the proposed landfill project". Walker's dump plan would fill their own pockets at the expense of our community by a practice called "externalization" where a business (e.g., Walker) maximizes its profits by off-loading indirect costs and forcing negative effects onto third parties, in our case, the environment and local taxpayers.
- Programs designed to mitigate negative effects, such as property value protection are insufficient. Remember Ben Lansink, real estate appraiser, telling us that we stand to lose an average of ¼ of our home and business property values? Suddenly your hard-earned home appraised at \$250 000 is only worth \$187 500.
- Cemetery Creek, a significant valley that flows into the Thames River, is entirely neglected. How can they then say what the impact will be on its waterflow with spring snow melt or rains, summer storms, or when Walker pumps the planned millions of imperial gallons of leachate into it?
- A proper Bird Hazard Assessment was not completed in accordance with the Transport Canada Guidelines as stipulated in the Work Plan. Given the nearby pleasure aviation traffic at Woodstock and Tillsonburg airports, crop spraying for farms and flights in and out of London International Airport there are significant concerns about high-risk interactions with aircraft. Dumps attract gull and raptors – both hazardous to aircraft and those living below them.
- Walker failed to assess the peak hour traffic on peak waste receipt days, using instead the peak hour volumes on average waste receipt days, a lower number. As a result, the direct effects of peak traffic volumes were not properly assessed, and cumulative effects - Air Quality, Noise, Social impact, Road Traffic Volumes - which means the assessment of noise from the haul route is fundamentally flawed. At various times, Walker has touted various numbers of

truck trips, up to 400 daily. We also know that our taxes pay for road maintenance.

- The groundwater and surface water interaction during baseline and future conditions was not assessed in sufficient detail and hence potential effects of the proposed landfill on downstream surface water could not be determined. This also renders incomplete the aquatic ecosystem assessment. How do you plan for safe water when the data is incomplete? How will climate change and predicted higher storm intensity affect water flows?
- Carmeuse Lime annual water monitoring reports were promised but not provided, and important planned water monitoring stations were not installed. OPAL has repeatedly asked Walker and Carmeuse for the 2014/ 2015 water reports; they have not been provided despite their importance. When will they release them? Why their secrecy?

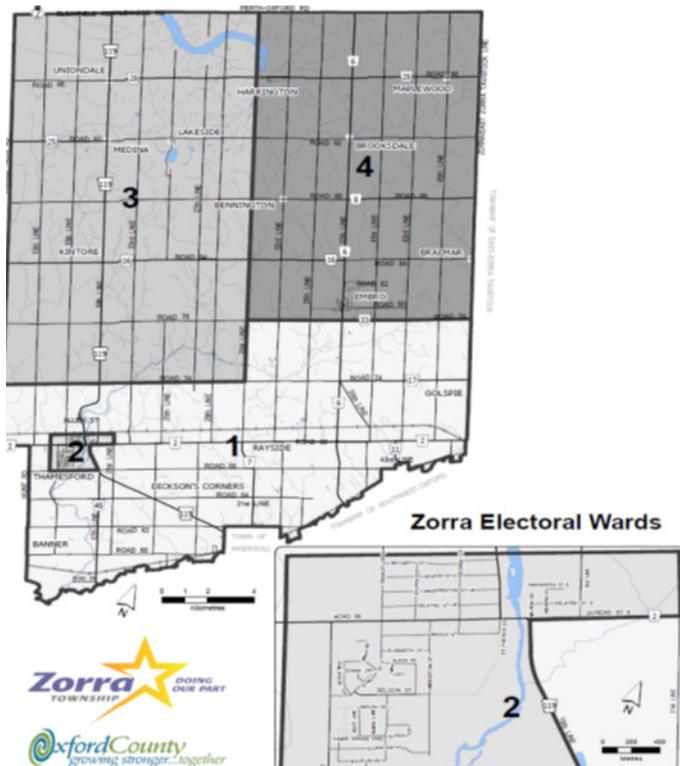
In conclusion, the experts on the Joint Review Team recommend that Zorra, South-West Oxford and Ingersoll, the Joint Municipal Coordinating Committee, reject the subject draft Environmental Assessment and urge the Minister to not approve it. Add to those urgings! We've shown you why!

Act Now!

1. A respectful note or a calm, polite phone call to a councillor could be effective in stopping the dump. The more factual and respectful your communication, the more the discussion will lead to informed decisions.
2. Write the some of the facts and reasons above to Walker explaining why you reject their dump plan.
3. Ask neighbours and friends (at a safe distance and masked as required), to think and act too to prevent Walker's dump plan. Perhaps they will have already done so on their own, or on others' urgings. The reasons need to be explained again and again, and you can assure them that quoting the experts along with their own reasons will be effective.

How to reach your councillor

1. Check the map below for the councillor in your ward.
2. Select the key points you plan to offer
3. Use the contact information for an informative, respectful email or polite telephone call.



Name	Email	Phone
Mayor Marcus Ryan	mryan@zorra.ca	519-301-1634
Ward 1 Councillor Ron Forbes	rforbes@zorra.ca	519-709-4527
Ward 2 Councillor Katie Davies	kdavies@zorra.ca	226-268-4495
Ward 3 Councillor Paul Mitchell	pmitchell@zorra.ca	519-349-2271
Ward 4 Councillor Steve MacDonald	smacdonald@zorra.ca	519-475-4219

Tell Walker you object to their Dump Plan

1. Drop or send letter mail telling Walker why their dump plan is unacceptable to

Walker Industries
c/o 160 Carnegie St,
Ingersoll, ON
N5C 4A8

Or

2. Email Walker your letter of objections to the dump to Walker at info@walkerea.com .
3. Ask them to confirm receipt of it and to include it in their 'final Environmental Assessment'.

The OPAL Alliance thanks you!

If you would like more information or to become more involved, contact OPAL's Bryan Smith at bryasmit@oxford.net



Please note that OPAL's work against the dump has been over 9 year's work. Recent publications by Max Kirby and the Concerned Citizens of Zorra are at his initiative, not OPAL's.