

We all share sincere gratitude and satisfaction in our County's moratorium decision, as well as their expressed commitment to address the deficiencies in the current policies and procedures regarding gravel pit applications and approvals!

We can have restored faith in our elected representatives and administrators as they demonstrate this commitment to their mission:

" To instill in County residents pride in the past, confidence in the present, and excitement for the future "

(LSAC Mission Statement)

October 21, 2008

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LAC STE. ANNE COUNTY PUTS MORATORIUM ON FUTURE GRAVEL PIT

By Shane Sellar

After receiving Yellowhead Aggregates gravel pit permit application, Lac Ste. Anne County concluded that the company's application was not complete and, in turn, has decided to put a moratorium on future gravel pit applications for the time being, subject to legal counsel review and opinion.

According to County Municipal Administrator, Len Szybunka, council discussed the aggregates permit application at the October 1 Development Committee meeting, whereupon it was determined that the application was incomplete.

Council then decided to defer their decision until the December 10, 2008 Development Committee agenda meeting. In the meantime, they have requested further information from Yellowhead Aggregates.

While Szybunka said that he was unaware of any applications from other aggregate companies looking to develop in the county, he is aware that there are some companies actively looking into applying.

And it is those potential applicants that resulted in council's decision to implement a moratorium on future applications, which was first suggested to council by Councillor Joe Blakeman at the October 9, 2008 council meeting.

"We have been told that there may be more applications coming in,"

Councillor Blakeman said. "It seems to me that we are not asking the aggregates to put enough stuff on their applications. Right now we have a guideline, but what is a guideline? We need a policy. We need to get our ducks in a row, because we are going to get more applications, and this

is starting to affect the taxpayers. We are still responsible for what happens in our county, so I would like a moratorium before we get more applications."

Besides making the applications more cut and dry, Szybunka said that one inclusion that council would like to look into is the requirement for a traffic impact assessment, as well as ground water and noise assessments.

Though he was unsure if the revised application would take into consideration direct questions raised by the Lac Ste. Anne Community

Group—a faction of homeowners near the proposed site who vehemently oppose the gravel pit—he did say that the requirements will likely be similar to the concerns raised by the group, as well as others.

"I think a moratorium is a good idea," Councillor George Turk said, a sentiment which

was echoed by Councillor Lloyd Giebelhaus who added, "We need to have uniform rules that everybody must follow."

Reeve Derril Butler concurred with both councillors stating that he felt that there was good enough reason to place a moratorium on aggregate applications until a proper application policy could be reached.

While this moratorium is a precedent for Lac Ste. Anne County, neighbouring

Parkland County has had a moratorium on the re-districting of agricultural land since July of this year.

Lac Ste. Anne County's moratorium on gravel pit applications is expected to be in-effect until March 1, 2009; however that date is tentative as it is still under review by council.