

Water concerns have always been top priority to the residents of the Braeside Ridge when the Miller Quarry expansion is discussed. Residents' fears of water shortage or water contamination have been largely ignored by the company and those members of McNab/Braeside Council who voted in favour of the Miller expansion.

They have not been ignored by MNR or MOE.

The MNR May 27, 2013 letter of refusal of the Miller aggregate license for the expansion of the Braeside Quarry stressed the importance of the wetlands on the ridge. Miller had not classified these wetlands according to MNR standards and in many cases Miller simply ignored them. MNR said that there was a likelihood these wetlands would be considered *provincially significant*, a very important designation.

On May 27, 2013 Shawn Kinney, MOE Hydrogeologist, reviewed the proposed Miller Braeside Quarry expansion. He said that about one square kilometre approximately 500 m southeast of the proposed excavation was the likeliest recharge area for the local aquifers. *Specifically, the wetland complex is the recharge area for groundwater sources for the whole community.*

Remember that precipitation is the only source of recharge for these aquifers. The summer of 2012 was a category 2 drought and, despite all the snow last winter or rain during the rest of the season we do not know if the aquifers have been recharged.

This month, Greig Burnie, Arnprior Golf Club General Manager, took a large number of aerial photos of the ridge showing ***all the wetlands are dry!*** (See photograph). On the ground inspections have confirmed this. Fall usually sees water everywhere – not this year!

Meanwhile the Miller quarry has been continuing to mine *under the water table*, pumping out water from our aquifers into the Ryan Creek where it is carried away from the area.

Residents of this ridge and surrounding area need to be alerted about this situation which may affect the future of fresh water resources. Immediate evaluation of the whole system appears to be required before any more continual pumping of the groundwater is allowed.