



RM OF ROCKWOOD
FORMAL RELEASE MAY 7, 2026

STATEMENT

The Rural Municipality of Rockwood is issuing this statement to provide clarity and context regarding Council's decision to approve two conditional use applications—submitted on behalf of Heidelberg Materials and Amrize Canada. Council does not take decisions of this magnitude lightly and has carefully considered the full scope of planning history, applicable regulations, and community input in reaching its decision. This includes the history of Zoning By-law Amendment No. 12/20, submitted in 2020 on behalf of Maple Leaf Construction Ltd., which proposed mining on lands north of the Town of Stonewall, south of Road 78N, between PR 236 (Road 6E) and Road 7E, and remains an important reference point in evaluating current applications.

Council recognizes both the importance of the quarry industry to the region's economy and infrastructure, and the concerns expressed by neighbouring property owners and residents. Rockwood Council has heard these perspectives and is committed to strengthening oversight and enforcement of quarry operations moving forward. Council welcomes continued dialogue, including the opportunity to meet with resident delegations, and encourages residents to contact the RM if they observe potential infractions, as timely and detailed reports assist Council and staff in responding effectively and supporting enforcement efforts.

Timeline:

- 2022: Rockwood Council did not give By-law 12/20 second reading, which allowed the legislative objection process to proceed.
- 2022: Maple Leaf Construction appealed Rockwood's decision to the Municipal Board.
- 2022: The Municipal Board declined to decide the application; Maple Leaf appealed to the Court of Appeal.
- The Court of Appeal did not overturn the Municipal Board's decision.
- Maple Leaf then appealed to the Court of King's Bench.
- 2025: The Court of King's Bench directed that the matter be referred back to the Municipal Board and that a decision be made on the original application.
- March 27, 2026: The Municipal Board approved the by-law and overturned Rockwood's original decision to deny the By-Law.
- April 8, 2026: Council did second and third reading of the by-law as required by the Municipal Board order.
- A development agreement is currently being drafted by legal counsel.
- This outcome has implications for how quarry-related applications may be addressed in the future.
- Legal fees exceeded \$120,000.
- Lost quarry hauling and transportation revenue was estimated at approximately \$500,000 per year.

In early winter 2025, Heidelberg Materials and Amrize Canada each submitted Conditional Use Applications to mine lands outside the MEH (Aggregate Extractive Holding Area) designation. Public hearings were held on March 17, 2026 and March 19, 2026, respectively.

On April 8, 2026, Council approved both applications in light of the Municipal Board's final decision in the Maple Leaf matter and the associated risks to the municipality.

Denying these Conditional Use Applications could result in:

- A Five-year long process as referred to in the Maple Leaf Application
- Potential revenue loss of approximately \$40 million over 20 years.
- Reduced funding and ripple effects on municipal and shared regional services with the Town of Stonewall (e.g., fire protection, handi-van service, library services, and recreation services), just to name a few.
- Potential increases to the municipal portion of property taxes (estimated at up to 20% per year) to offset reduced quarry revenue.
- Reduced contributions to and growth of municipal reserve funds.

Council remains committed to balancing responsible economic development with the protection of community well-being and quality of life. The RM of Rockwood will continue to monitor quarry operations closely, uphold regulatory standards, and engage openly with residents as this work progresses. Through ongoing oversight, transparent communication, and a willingness to listen, Council aims to ensure that decisions made today continue to serve the best interests of the broader community over the long term.