

Mining and your every day life

Letter to the editor

Here is a question I challenge you to ask yourself – how does mining affect my every day life?

It seems obvious to me through recent media accounts that there is a huge disconnect for the general population on this matter. Many people seem to think that meat comes from the grocery store, lumber comes from the hardware store, metal for cars comes from the car manufacturer, plastics, well, they're just 'man made'. But think about it - if it can't be grown, it has to be mined. Your first reaction is probably "that's crap" but think about it. It is true.

I challenge anyone who would like to ban mining to live for a month without using anything that contains metal or plastic. Then I would ask you to re-assess your position.

You used a wooden bucket to get water from the well (isn't that a version of a mine?) because there are no pipes. There is no electricity – start cutting down more trees - you have no car or bicycle. And don't forget your road is a dirt path because there are no sidewalks or roads.

Mining is a fact of life here in Nova Scotia contributing not only significantly to the provincial GDP (in the order of \$400.4 million per year) but also providing some of the highest paid jobs in the province – particularly as compared to the tourism industry which everyone turns to when arguing against my industry.

I, like you, live here in Nova Scotia. I understand the need for protected areas, and special places, but I do not understand the move to prevent the orderly and environmentally responsible development of viable mineral and aggregate resources. The mining industry of today not only doesn't look like that of yesteryears but is highly regulated these days on a number of fronts including labour and environmental aspects.

I challenge you to think about what your life would look like without the work done by me and my colleagues in the mining industry.