



March 23, 2019

To: Mayor George Cornell, Deputy Mayor Steffen Walma, and Councillors Cindy Hastings, Tony Mintoff and Gibb Wishart, and also Director of Planning & Development Shawn Persaud and Director of Public Works Tim Leitch

**Re: Township of Tiny Comments on Proposed Teedon Pit Extension, North Part of Lot 80, Concession 1 O.S. (Roll #1-029-00)**

**Please include in "Correspondence" in the next Committee of the Whole Agenda.**

FoTTSA recognizes that the Corporation of the Township of Tiny is objecting to the Teedon Pit Extension Application by CRH Canada Group Inc. and appreciates the importance of the technical issues mentioned in the draft comment letter to MNR and CRH. However, FoTTSA urges Council, Shawn Persaud and Tim Leitch to strengthen the letter by focusing on the danger that the extension of the Teedon Pit poses to the Simcoe Uplands which are the primary recharge area for a critically important aquifer.

This is the same aquifer that was at the centre of the Dump Site 41 battle and is no less important now than it was then. It is renowned for having the purest water in the world. It's a unique resource and must be preserved at all costs. It is your responsibility as the environmental stewards of Tiny Township to protect it from permanent and irreversible damage. The First Nations recognise water as something that must be cared for. They are calling the Teedon Pit and its Extension "Dump Site 42" because it's the same aquifer that's at issue. In 2018, the First Nations held a water ceremony in the midst of a blizzard to express their reverence for the aquifer. Representatives came from bands all over North America.

FoTTSA proposes the inclusion of the following paragraph drawing attention to the overarching threat to our water before the technical sections of the Township's comments:

*The Township is not satisfied that all matters related to this proposal have been satisfactorily addressed for the reasons stated in this letter, and is therefore objecting to the Application.*

***The Township is extremely concerned about the danger that the extension of the Teedon Pit poses to the Simcoe Uplands which are the primary recharge area for a critically important aquifer. This is the same aquifer that was at the centre of the Dump Site 41 battle. This aquifer is renowned for having the purest water in the world. As a unique resource, it must be preserved at all costs. It is our responsibility as the environmental stewards of Tiny Township to protect it from permanent and irreversible damage. As with Dump Site 41, a grass roots coalition is already forming in Simcoe County to protect this water including First Nations who in 2018 held a water ceremony attended by representatives from all over North America to express their reverence for the aquifer.***

FoTTSA – Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations

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Further, FoTTSA believes it is critical that an experienced and specialized lawyer be retained to take this battle on. The Township needs legal counsel capable of opposing Jonathan Kahn (who is acting for the proponent), a formidably experienced lawyer who has been highly successful in defending clients like CRH Canada Group Inc. for over 30 years.

We urge the Council to hire David Donnelly of Donnelly Law, an environmental legal expert with many years' experience on aggregate issues who has won 15 of the 17 cases he took on in the last 18 months. Donnelly was recommended by Gravel Watch, a citizen watchdog group that keeps track of actions regarding gravel pits.

In conclusion our member associations are deeply concerned that this matter be given the attention it merits and the board of FoTTSA would be happy to work with Council in any way that might help the Township to prevail in this critical matter.

Regards,

Paul Cowley

President – FoTTSA (Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations)

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