



Deputation for December 9, 2019

Given by Tara Marshall, Director, FoTTSA

Our organization continues to be concerned about the excavation of aggregate in Concession 1 of Tiny Township.

We are glad to see that the Township intends to tackle problems associated with aggregate extraction and local impacts in a deputation at the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association Annual Conference.

Right now, the best point of leverage is the proposed expansion of the Teedon Pit northward into French's Hill: Dufferin Aggregates, a subsidiary of CRH Canada Group Inc., is seeking a renewal of its permit to take water for the washing of gravel and a renewal of its license to take gravel. The Township has blocked the expansion by failing to grant the necessary changes to its Official Plan and By-laws. This move triggered the LPAT hearing that has been going through a series of Pre-hearing Conferences. Parties (CRH, Township, FoTTSA) will be submitting issues and witness lists next summer. All parties are agreed that the renewal of the permit to take gravel should be included in the LPAT hearing, but this hasn't happened yet.

At this point we would like to remind Council about the danger that the extension of the Teedon Pit poses to the Simcoe Moraine (also known as the Waverley Uplands) -- the primary recharge area for the critically important aquifer known as the Alliston Aquifer Complex. This is the same aquifer that was at the centre of the Dump Site 41 battle. A couple of years ago, Professor William Shotyk spoke to Council about the extraordinary purity of the water in this aquifer complex and a year ago he wrote a letter to Simcoe County Council urging a moratorium on expansion of aggregate extraction in the Waverley Uplands until the impacts on groundwater flow systems are fully understood. He convinced Dr. John Cherry, who wrote the standard textbook on groundwater, to work with him on mapping this aquifer complex, a project that will take years to complete.

This is the most important issue facing the township. We urge you to make it an issue that will be addressed at the LPAT hearing. You'll need skilled witness support and you'll need strong legal advice as to how to make it part of the LPAT hearing this late in the day. Immediate action is required on this issue if you're to be effective. Surely you don't want to be the Council that failed to even try to protect the Alliston Aquifer complex. The meter and a half separation from the deep aquifer mandated by the Provincial Government fails to protect the overburden that filters the water in aquifers below. Already there is silt in local wells when gravel is being washed.



It is your responsibility as the environmental stewards of Tiny Township to protect the aquifer complex from permanent and irreversible damage while it is being mapped by Professor Shotyk and Dr Cherry and their teams. We urge, once again, that you make protection of the Alliston aquifer complex a focus of your opposition to the extension of the Teedon Pit and beyond that, in lobbying the relevant ministry to deny a ten-year extension to the Teedon Pit's Permit to Take Water for washing gravel. Tiny Township Council needs to lead the charge on this issue rather than leaving it to a grass roots coalition which includes FoTTSA, Aware Simcoe, the Friends of the Waverley Uplands, local First Nation women, and the Council of Canadians. You need to act now.

Please join us in this serious concern and let us work together to strategize a strong defence.