



FoTTSA Delegation to Tay Township December 11, 2019

Presented by Judith Grant, on behalf of the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations (FoTTSA)

In June of this year, Dr. William Shotyk addressed Tay's Council about the extraordinarily pure water in the aquifer under his farm in your Township, water that he has been testing for thirty years. This water is so extraordinarily pure that he (a well-known fresh water expert) and Professor John Cherry (author of the standard text on groundwater) feel justified in calling it the purest water in the world. This pristine water is part of the headwaters of the Alliston aquifer complex. Dr. Shotyk also spoke about the role the overburden – the Waverley Uplands or the Simcoe Moraine -- plays in filtering the water that lies deep underground.

This aquifer is the source of the artesian flow in the water kiosk on County Road 27 just north of Elmvalle which attracts people from all over Ontario to come and fill their bottles. This is the same water that is at issue in the mining of aggregate by Dufferin Aggregates, a subsidiary of CRH Canada Group Inc, in its Teedon Pit in Concession 1 of Tiny Township.

A year ago, Dr. Shotyk wrote a letter to the Warden and Council of Simcoe County urging a moratorium on expansion of aggregate extraction in the Waverley Uplands until the impacts on groundwater flow systems are fully understood. His appeal was not heard. Nonetheless, he and John Cherry have embarked on a project that will produce this understanding. They began the arduous task of mapping the aquifer complex this fall, by sinking special wells that capture underground water flows at various levels. The first two such wells were sunk on Shotyk's farm in your township and a third has been drilled on a private property on French's Hill in Tiny Township. Theirs is a long term, very costly project, involving many special wells over many years. They have received a 5-year grant of \$30,000 a year to make a start and they plan on applying for a much larger grant to get the job completed. They have appealed to the residents of Springwater, Tay, and Tiny Townships to get involved by housing researchers, allowing wells to be drilled on their properties, and supporting their applications to government granting authorities.

FoTTSA is afraid that there will be no point in mapping the aquifer if it is wrecked by aggregate extraction in the next couple of years. So FoTTSA has become a party in the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal or LPAT hearing into the application by CRH for an extension of the Teedon Pit northward into French's Hill, an important part of the Waverley Uplands in Concession 1 of Tiny not far from Tay. FoTTSA's members live along the shore of Tiny Township, kilometers away from the Teedon pit. We got involved because we care about the environment and feel that the purest water in the world is worth fighting for. We also got involved because our Township has not taken protecting this pure water as the focus of its effort in opposing the extension of the Teedon Pit. Indeed, the comment letter it sent to MNRF and to Dufferin



Aggregates looks like the Township intends to settle after dealing with matters like traffic and endangered species.

The battle to protect the world's most pristine water is going to cost us more than \$100,000, to cover the cost of witnesses and the expenses of our pro bono lawyers. Without the support of the Canadian Environmental Law Association – CELA – our costs would rise to at least \$150,000.

You recall the recent world-wide protest of the young and the address to the United Nations by Greta Thunberg – all decrying the failure of world leaders and the rich to deal with destructive climate change – all concerned that their future is being compromised. They might equally have pointed to our failure to protect the planet's drinking water. Already there are worrisome signs that aggregate extraction in the Teedon Pit is impacting groundwater. Since 2009, many wells along highway 93 and along Marshall Road in Tiny, along with local springs and streams have become silty whenever gravel is washed in the Teedon Pit. Last January, there was silt in the artesian flow in the water kiosk. Back in 2007 and 2008, as vegetation was stripped off the Teedon Pit and serious mining of aggregate was undertaken, water levels rose in some neighbouring wells and flooded nearby roads and springs.

This is an opportunity for you to help to protect the source of the extraordinarily pure water in wells in the southwest corner of Tay and perhaps more broadly in your township, though we won't know how broadly until the Alliston aquifer complex is fully mapped. FoTTSA appeals to you to invest in our effort to halt the northward removal the filtration layer that produces this extraordinary water. Bill Shotyk believes that it is imperative that there be a moratorium on aggregate extraction in the Waverley Uplands until groundwater flows are fully understood. Getting the extension of the Teedon Pit stopped is a start. FoTTSA asks that you make a substantial contribution toward our legal costs as we go to bat for the world's purest water, some of it in Tay Township. It would also be helpful if you were willing to make a statement about the importance of protecting this pure water at the hearing which will probably take place toward the end of 2020 or the beginning of 2021.