



TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT

Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 1, 2021

Council Meeting

Electronic Online Participation

7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Mayor L. Armstrong, Councillors A. Hallman, C. Gordijk, B. Fisher, J. Gerber and J. Pfenning

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer G. Whittington, Director of Information and Legislative Services D. Mittelholtz, Director of Public Works J. Molenhuis, Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation S. Jackson, Director of Development Services H. O'Krafka, Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer P. Kelly, Fire Chief R. Leeson, Director / Curator Castle Kilbride T. Loch, Manager of Information and Legislative Services / Deputy Clerk T. Murray, Manager of Planning / EDO A. Martin

1. MOTION TO CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 2021-39

Moved by: Councillor J. Pfenning Seconded by: Councillor C. Gordijk

THAT a Closed Meeting of Council be held on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in accordance with Section 239(2), (c) for the purposes of:

(c) a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the municipality.

CARRIED.

2. MOTION TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Resolution No. 2021-40

Moved by: Councillor C. Gordijk

Seconded by: Councillor B. Fisher

THAT Council reconvene in open session.

CARRIED.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE

4. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

4.1 Councillor J. Pfenning read the Land Acknowledgement.

5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

**6. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER THE MUNICIPAL
CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT**

6.1 Councillor C. Gordijk advised that although there are no decisions being made at this meeting relative to the Hallman Pit, she restated her conflict of interest and advised she would not be taking part in any conversations on the topic.

7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7.1 Council Meetings Minutes Monday February 22, 2021

Resolution No. 2021-41

Moved by: Councillor C. Gordijk

Seconded by: Councillor J. Gerber

THAT the minutes of the following meetings be adopted as presented:

Special Council Meeting February 22, 2021 and Regular Council Meeting February 22, 2021.

CARRIED.

8. PUBLIC MEETINGS

9. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

The following persons appeared as delegations in relation to the proposed Hallman Pit. Prepared statements and / or presentations are attached as noted.

9.1 Mr. John Coulter, Appendix A

- 9.2** Mr. Franco DiGiovani, Appendix B
- 9.3** Ms. Patricia Chevalier, Appendix C
- 9.4** Ms. Ann Dupej, Appendix D
- 9.5** Ms. Stephanie Goertz appeared as a delegation in relation to the Hallman Pit. Ms. Goertz noted the increase in traffic in her neighbourhood, noting that the addition of sidewalks has made the community more walkable and the traffic increase has created health and safety concerns.
- 9.6** Ms. Linda Laepple, Appendix E
- 9.7** Ms. Rachel Rennie, Appendix F
- 9.8** Mr. Lavern Forwell appeared as a delegation in relation to the Hallman Pit. Mr. Forwell expressed his concerns with the proposed pit and potential impacts on quality of life, through potential increased noise and air pollution and the impacts on private well water. Mr. Forwell responded to questions from Council that the other pits in the area do cause noise problems. Mr. Forwell referenced photographs he provided to Council that are attached as Appendix G.
- 9.9** Ms. Christina Harnack, Appendix H
- 9.10** Mr. Kelvin Wood appeared as a delegation in relation to the Hallman Pit. Mr. Wood expressed his concerns over the proposed pit and his concerns over the change of the load restrictions on Witmer Road and the ground water protection area.
- It was confirmed by Council that they have received all data that has been provided and asked Mr. Wood to share any information that he has regarding the history proposed pit. It was also confirmed that the proposed pit has not been pre-approved at this stage.
- 9.11** Mr. David Bricker appeared as a delegation in relation to the Hallman Pit. Mr. Bricker expressed his concerns over the proposed pit and the impacts of the trucks, noise and dust.
- 9.12** Ms. Samantha Lernout, Appendix I

Council expressed interest in the studies referenced by Mr. DiGiovani and Mr. Wood that include data to support the findings presented. Mr. DiGiovani and Mr. Wood were requested to forward the studies to the Director of Information and Legislative Services for distribution.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

11. REPORTS

11.1 Parks, Facilities and Recreation Services

11.1.1 REPORT NO. PFRS 2021-03

**RFP Award HVAC Systems Engineering Consultation and
Design Administration Building**

Resolution No. 2021-42

Moved by: Councillor A. Hallman

Seconded by: Councillor J. Gerber

THAT RFP 2021-007 be awarded to BMI Engineering Inc., for engineering consultation, HVAC equipment design, and project supervision, for the Wilmot Administration Complex, as per their proposal dated February 24, 2021, in the amount of \$28,250 including HST.

CARRIED.

The Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation Services outlined the report.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

13. BY-LAWS

13.1 By-law No. 2021-14

**Execution of an Agreement with BMI
Engineering Inc.**

Resolution No. 2021-43

Moved by: Councillor B. Fisher

Seconded by: Councillor J. Pfenning

THAT By-law No. 2021-14 be read a first, second and third time and finally passed in Open Council.

CARRIED.

14. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

15.1 Councillor A. Hallman advised that the Legion and the New Hamburg Firebirds are holding a joint fundraising raffle and she has tickets available.

15.2 Councillor A. Hallman advised that on March 20th she is hosting an Eggstravaganza and the Easter Bunny will be in New Dundee for the children to visit.

15.3 Councillor A. Hallman noted that today is Black Mental Health day and encouraged the continuation of combatting racism, and she shared a video of a poem from a local student.

15.4 Councillor B. Fisher advised that the Baden Dental Clinic owners, Rick and Nancy have announced their retirement and they have sold the business to Dr. Mike Farhadian, he wished them a happy retirement and welcomed Dr. Farhadian to Baden.

16. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION

17. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

17.1 By-law No. 2021-13

Resolution No. 2021-44

Moved by: Councillor J. Pfenning

Seconded by: Councillor C. Gordijk

THAT By-law No. 2021-13 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council at its Meeting held on March 1, 2021 be introduced, read a first, second, and third time and finally passed in Open Council.

CARRIED.

18. ADJOURNMENT (9:11PM)

Resolution No. 2021-45

Moved by: Councillor J. Gerber

Seconded by Councillor A. Hallman

THAT we do now adjourn to meet again at the call of the Mayor.

"Predictable worst case noise impact" (quoted from NPC 300)

means the noise impact associated with a planned and predictable mode of operation for stationary source(s), during the hour when the noise emissions from the stationary source(s) have the greatest impact at a point of reception, relative to the applicable limit. The acoustic assessment of stationary source noise impacts at a point of reception must address the predictable worst case noise impact.

The greatest noise impact at a point of reception may not occur when the noise emissions from the stationary source(s) are highest, since the applicable limit (the higher of either background sound level or exclusion limit) may vary throughout the operating time.

The predictable worst case noise impact addresses the following activities:

Regular, routine operation of equipment Operations of equipment are included in the predictable worst case scenario.

Infrequent operation of equipment Operations of equipment (stationary sources) that occur at least twice a month and emit noise for at least one half hour on each occasion are considered planned and predictable even if they are not occurring at precisely the same time on each occurrence, and are included in the predictable worst case scenario.

Operation of emergency equipment Activities related to the operation or testing of equipment used for emergency purposes, but in non-emergency situations, are addressed using separate sound level limits, described in Section B7.3 and Section C4.5.3.

Land Use Compatibility Assessments – air assessments – Halman Pit

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Dr Franco DiGiovanni LEL

Senior Project Manager

DiGiSci Environmental Consulting Inc.

- ▶ BSc(HONS) Geology – Royal School of Mines, Imperial College, UK
- ▶ PhD – Physical Geography – Dispersion Modelling – University of Hull, UK
- ▶ Post Doctorate – University of Guelph
- ▶ NSERC Visiting Scientist to a Canadian Government Laboratory – Environment Canada
- ▶ Lead Scientist in DiGiovanni Scientific Consulting
- ▶ Senior Air Quality Modeller at Airzone One Inc.
- ▶ Senior Project Manager with Hemmera EnviroChem Inc.
- ▶ Senior Project Manager with DiGiSci Environmental Consulting Inc.



Land Use Compatibility



Photo Credit: Ivan Wong Rodenas of Flickr

- Meant to ensure different land uses do not cause each other environmental problems
- Enshrined in PPS (p. 1.2.6.1)

Land Use Compatibility PPS (2020, p. 1.2.6.1)

“Major facilities and sensitive land uses shall be planned and developed to avoid, or if avoidance is not possible, minimize and mitigate any potential adverse effects from odour, noise and other contaminants, minimize risk to public health and safety, and to ensure the long-term operational and economic viability of major facilities in accordance with provincial guidelines, standards and procedures.”

- *adverse effects* = EPA definition

Adverse effects and Air Quality

- ❑ Requires an air impact assessment
- ❑ Impact assessment should include cumulative effects





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The Danger of Fine Particulate Matter to Our Community

IMPACT OF THE HALLMAN PIT

Preconsultation Meeting Notes for the Hallman Pit Application

- ▶ “Mr. Martin asked about whether a dust study is being done or not. He indicated that the residents of Shingletown are fairly close to the site and that a dust study may be prudent. Mr. Sisco noted that berms and setbacks will be provided and that a dust study is typically not required through the ARA.”
- ▶ No further discussion is noted on the topic

Diesel Emissions

- ▶ Contain toxic fine particulate matter – smaller than a red blood cell
- ▶ Diesel emissions enter your homes then your body
- ▶ Large diesel trucks on regional roads will increase
- ▶ Load of diesel emissions along haul routes will increase
- ▶ Inhaled fine particulate matter will increase

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) – Health Impact of Diesel Emission (part of the WHO)

- ▶ Diesel engine exhaust is “carcinogenic to humans”
- ▶ Diesel exhaust linked to lung cancer & bladder cancer

OLFACTORY NERVE

Inhaled particles travel through this nerve into the brain, bypassing the lungs

BRAIN



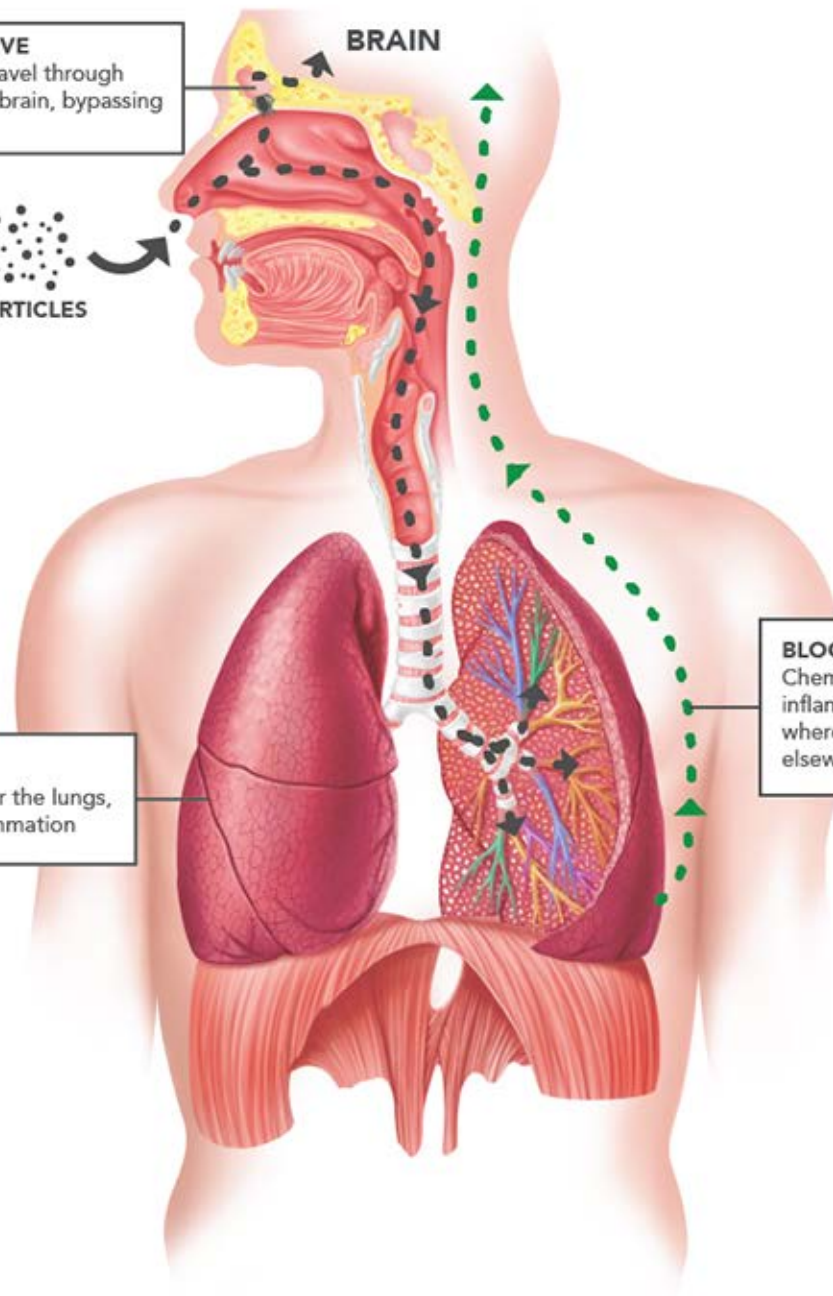
PARTICLES

LUNGS

Particles enter the lungs, causing inflammation

BLOODSTREAM

Chemicals triggered by lung inflammation enter the bloodstream, where they travel to the brain and elsewhere in the body



Current Information about Air Pollution 2021

Environmental Research Journal

- ▶ 1 in 5 premature deaths can be attributed to air pollution from Fossil Fuels
- ▶ Researchers used a new way of measuring pollution that allowed the separation of fossil fuels from other air pollution

Lancet Planetary Health

December 2020 (used data from U.S. & Ont)

- ▶ Impaired cognitive function
- ▶ Accelerated cognitive decline
- ▶ Parkinson's disease
- ▶ Alzheimer's disease
- ▶ Dementia

Global Burden of Disease, Injuries and Risk Factors Study 2016

Between 1990 & 2016

- ▶ Prevalence of Parkinson's disease increased by 145%
- ▶ Alzheimer's disease and related dementias have increased by 117%
- ▶ In around 25 years these neurodegenerative diseases have more than doubled

Shingletown Residents

- ▶ Wind will blow fugitive dust & particles matter towards Shingletown
- ▶ Fine particulate matter can travel for miles
- ▶ Residents outside of Shingletown will suffer
- ▶ Berms will not stop this

Witmer Road Residents

- ▶ One or more diesel trucks every two minutes
- ▶ Trucks idle waiting for the pit to open
- ▶ High humidity traps diesel emission
- ▶ Wind blows diesel emission



March 1, 2021 Council Presentation

Submitted by:

Ann Dupej

2122 Bleams Road, Petersburg ON N0B 2H0

Shingletown

I have enjoyed living in Wilmot township in the rural community of Shingletown for almost 40 years and now I am dismayed over this potential gravel pit.

Tonight I am addressing my concerns about the harmful impacts of the noise pollution that this pit will generate.

Gravel pit operations cause a tremendous amount of noise pollution. "Sensitive receptors" the noise feasibility study refers to are the people that be will be subjected to this noise. Noise from construction and excavation equipment, noise from crushing equipment, noise from trucking. From the noise feasibility study provided by the developer: Noise that will last all day, 11 hours Monday to Friday and 12 hours including "shipping" which I take to mean trucks, and 4 hours on Saturday and 6 hours including "shipping" which I take to mean trucks from 6 in the morning. But guidelines apparently do not apply to the sound produced by road trucks on public roads so I guess we just have to live with it or should I say get sick with it. According to the Construction Equipment Noise Levels and Ranges Handbooks, dump trucks from 50 feet away produce an average of 76 dB, 8 times above the 45 safe range. (Every 10 dB, the sound is 2times as loud.) Many homes are way less than 50 feet away from roads. And what about the noise these trucks generate in and out of the pit which can be up to 100dB at source?

The increased number of trucks alone will create a substantial negative impact and not just for noise. According to the feasibility study, "The peak number of trucks to arrive and depart in a typical busy hour is 34." I believe it's more than that, but even that means every hour there will be 34 (that's more than 1 every 2 minutes) more loud, diesel fume emitting dump trucks on our roads. How can that not have an impact?

Finding highly credible sources all of which detail negative health impacts of environmental noise pollution is easy. I'm only barely scratching the surface with what I am sharing with you.

Here's the common thread of all this research:

Long term exposure to sounds that are not loud enough for us to give them a second thought can cause permanent damage to the hearing brain. Physical hearing can be fine but neural connections in the brain are compromised. From the Scientific American Journal, "Even a modest level of noise over a long period of time can cause damage to brain networks that extract meaning from sound. Most of us don't even realize our brains are being blunted and our thinking impeded by this invisible force." Constant low-level meaningless noise chips away at the brain's ability to make sense of meaningful sounds and may hasten cognitive decline (dementia) in old age.

Health Canada defines noise as unwanted sound and depending on the sound level and exposure it can cause annoyance, interference with communication, disturbance of rest, sleep or concentration, and may cause sufficient stress to risk developing stress-related illness. Have you not experience annoyance noise in the background of a conversation, it doesn't have to be loud to distract and cause irritability and blood pressure to rise. In the case of the gravel pit, constant exposure to truck traffic noise and production equipment noise produces a higher, long-lasting, cant-make- it stop annoyance level. Science warns us that there is an association between acute and chronic environmental noise and health impacts that include cardiovascular disease, cognitive impairment, sleep disturbance, mental health and a negative impact on behaviour in children.

The WHO in the Children's Health and the Environment section has Training for Health Care Providers that includes the adverse health effects of noise on children. That this topic is even included should be a flag to us. They conclude that children may be even more susceptible to noise effects which could lead to lifelong impairment of learning and education. Please note that this about constant environmental noise, not the going to a loud concert once in a while noise, the kind of constant environmental noise this gravel pit is going to generate. Long term exposure has adverse effects on physical health, psychological health and on cognition.

Toronto Public Health has also concluded that excessive environmental noise impacts quality of life and causes hearing loss and has cardiovascular effects, cognitive effects and mental health effects as well as sleep disturbance. In a 2016 study in Toronto the environmental noise was described as mostly car traffic and in our case the traffic will be gravel truck traffic, significantly louder than cars. Newer evidence confirmed that the previous benchmark levels for outdoors noise levels still cause health impacts.

Results of a study done in Stockholm Sweden suggest an association between exposure to traffic noise and hypertension which means road traffic may be a risk factor for cardiovascular health. That's just car traffic, not including pit equipment generated noise.

Our own Ministry of the Environment concedes that noise is a biological stressor, one of the determinants of health. Maintaining a quality outdoor noise environment will promote a more healthy lifestyle and reduce the risk of chronic disease and result in a healthier community.

Also let's not forget that the noise pollution from this gravel pit will not be the only noise pollution already present in our environment. A cumulative effect of all areas of concern has never been addressed. Common sense tells us that when there will be additional noise generated, the health impacts to our community will increase.

These highly credible sources with new bodies of research are warning us of the impending harm of environmental noise to healthy individuals. There is a significant harmful impact of noise that falls within allowable limits, noise that is consistent, noise that is annoying, noise that is distracting, noise that endangers our health. We can not simply dismiss this. Once we know, we have a responsibility to act. "We know better so we do better". Please stand up and protect me, my family, my community, my Wilmot. That's why I voted for you. Don't allow one more gravel pit that will bring harm to our community.

It's not just about lowering the noise level. The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention states: "The effect of lower noise levels over long periods of time is the same as louder noise levels over a shorter period."

In the end, only you, council, will be held responsible for what the future holds for us all in Wilmot, our children and our grandchildren. Just because you have a right to do something, does not make it the right thing to do. I hope Council will do the right thing for us all.

The Scientific American Journal states: "If possible, choose where you live wisely, based on noise levels." That is what we did here in Wilmot and we want to continue to enjoy that healthy lifestyle. It's up to you, Council, if we do, or if we don't.

Wilmot Council presentation March 1st 2021

Thank you for allowing me to speak today on the shortcomings of the original studies prepared for the Hallman pit application.

I am Linda Laepple and we farm across the road from the proposed Hallman pit site.

I am here to speak not only on my own behalf, but also on behalf of those older local residents who are not comfortable zooming but who have witnessed and told me about some of the environmental crimes that have happened at this proposed aggregate extraction site while it was operating as a showcase feedlot, probably the largest in Ontario.

And I am here speaking on behalf of those citizens of Baden and New Hamburg and the KW area who trust me to keep their drinking water clean since I farm next to the Region's wells.

And I take this opportunity to give voice to all the consumers I grow certified organic food for. This is a multicultural community with roots around the globe. Some drive from Hamilton and Toronto and trust me that I provide them with clean food but wonder and ask me when they see the signs to stop a gravel pit.

Yes the threats are as simple as airborne dust loaded with agrichemicals at different stages of decay blowing over my fields of green peas, potatoes and specialty crops grown on my property.

The proposed site is no ordinary piece of real estate. At this location it is not only important to study what impact a gravel pit would have on future agricultural activities. No it is even more important to assess the impact of digging up the legacy of past farming activities.

There is paper, there are words and there is reality.

Papers get filed, words get forgotten but reality we hear, we breathe, we eat and we drink.

Reality is; wind carries noise, dust and smell. On my farm we predict the weather by the smell of donuts and bagels coming from the food recycling place 3 and half km away. That smell means east wind and rain coming.

So. Baden is 4 km from the proposed pit and therefore under certain wind conditions, the entire population of Baden could be exposed to dust stirred up in the pit and people, looking for fresh air when walking the Baden hill trail, for sure will be exposed.

The air carries noise; my residence is exactly 2.5 km from the entrance to the 1922 Wittmer road property. When in spring 2019 or 2020 no sure, over a weeks' time, hundreds of trucks arrived at that site to unload topsoil to cover some of the old farmyard, we were woken up in the early mornings by the sound of the constant peep, peep, peep.

So imagine if you are living in one of the homes that are much closer and being exposed to such noise most of the year.

Reality is; that the Risks, when going ahead with this gravel pit, are assessed based on incomplete information.

But. Had those studies, and I mainly looked into the Agricultural and hydrological studies, not selectively left out information along with clear errors describing some observations and if peer reviews had made connections between the studies, it would have come to light that washing gravel at this site is like washing the stuff in your cats litterbox and offering this wash- water your kids to drink.

If facts had been note more correctly in the recent studies, the Region would have never concluded gravel extraction and washing at a contaminated site, a brown field near the public wells, are an acceptable risk.

Looking at these facts, the Township needs more time and therefore an interim control bylaw should be considered

We are all counting on our representatives on Wilmot council to draw a line on what is acceptable to the health and welfare of the residents of this Township,

Briefly two examples of information left out in the studies to demonstrate the risks resulting from it.

We all know fuel storage and water wells don't mix and there is a legal requirement to distance one from another.

The hydrological study shows 7 wells on or near the feedlot site on Wittmer road, with the deepest near the entrance road. But the reports fails to make note of the exact location, nor the condition or water quality found in it today.

Monitoring well #5 located near the roadway going passed the former cattle yard was noted for reading over the max nitrate levels along with almost all other chemistry readings elevated compared to the other 4 monitoring wells.

So once the project is approved, first thing needed is fuel.

In reality, and since no one knows, nothing would prevent a fueling station being placed right on top of an open well on just a concrete pad. (Subject to theft and vandalism.)

Issue 2: The agricultural study claimed there was no investments found like irrigation or land forming. Yet in the hydrological study one of the deepest wells was marked irrigation.

In reality, this well, rated 600 Gallon a minute, was used to flush liquid manure thru an extensive piping system thru out the property and across the road. Some of that investment can still been seen but was not mentioned.

The agricultural study claimed no land forming had taken place.

In reality a bermd area covering about 2,5 acres, was used as a manure lagoon for many years to let liquid manure from 5000 head of feeder cattle settle and seep into the ground with the solids left on top when the site was abandoned.

(This land forming and deposit of massive amounts of manure on top of a former pond, resulted in the removal of a wetland from the updated maps.) Save this info for later, not relevant for noise and dust)

The rest of the material, what didn't seep into the ground, was then distributed partly over what we call today the Nitrate contribution area of the Shingltown well field. Possibly thousands of liters of veterinary medication got over the years, deposited in those hills along with other AG chemicals.

DDT banned in 1972 has an afterlife of 50 years. Atrazine banned in Europe for good reasons since 2003 is still routinely applied as a herbicide by farmers here today, despite Health Canadas knowledge of it's adverse health effects and damage to groundwater.

So dust kicked up at this site potentially contains a brew of animal drugs and agrichemicals and will blow onto my crops that are being distributed in health food stores across Ontario.

The good thing is:

Nature, over time, has it's way to forgive and deal with pollution. **Please don't disturb the process.** Don't dig up nature's filters, shake them out and serve them for dinner.

Rezoning this site to aggregate is a license to allow another Walkerton to happen, but on a grand scale.

Thank you for letting me share just a few facts about this litterbox farm.

Rachel and Matt Rennie

2094 Bleams Rd

Thank you, Mayor and councillors, for taking the time to listen to the ongoing concerns tonight. Your time is greatly appreciated. My name is Rachel Rennie - I moved to Shingletown 5 years ago and was drawn in by the wonderful community and beautiful landscape. I am a wife to Matt, a mom to Paisley who is 5 and Nash who is 4. We also recently added a puppy to our family. As you can see in this picture the field just a few hundred meters behind us is the proposed home for the Hallman Gravel Pit.

This evening, I will be speaking on concerns I have regarding dust and emissions from the proposed gravel pit. As I read through my PowerPoint, I urge members of the council to put yourself in our shoes for a moment. Please think to yourself "what if this was my family, what if I was raising my young children in this town". The reality of this pit has a stark outcome.

The township of Wilmot population is projected to grow by 6,700 persons in the next 10 years. As you can see from this number our township is becoming increasingly popular. In fact, Wilmot Council recently approved two new subdivision plans – attracting people to work and live in Wilmot. As indicated in the press release – this expansion will emphasize the township's commitment to preservation and enhancement of the natural environment. My question is how can you consider allowing a gravel pit in the backyards of current residents when your objective is to enhance and protect the natural environment? If you cannot protect the residents you already have, how can you protect the ones to come?

Silica is a mineral made up of silicon and oxygen the most common form is crystalline silica. Found in almost every type of rock naturally. Silica in this form is essentially harmless as it is undisturbed. Much like asbestos, Silica becomes harmful and life threatening when it is disrupted by gravel

extraction as it becomes airborne. This airborne particle is classified as a chemical agent and is a regulated substance. According to Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act the agent requires any employee to have direct protection when dealing with the substance. If this is such a regulated substance consideration MUST be given to citizens living around gravel pit operations who will be exposed to elevated levels of silica. Several eye-opening studies prove the major health effects that arise from breathing in dust from these operations. These airborne particles can stay in the air and on surfaces for days and weeks. Over time, exposure has been proven to cause forms of cancers, COPD, autoimmune diseases and increasing susceptibility to infections. So, I am asking you – where are the dust studies? How will you monitor and mitigate the risks to your residents if this gravel pit is approved?

It is no surprise that these pits use a lot of heavy equipment to operate - this equipment is powered by diesel fuel. Use of this fuel creates diesel emissions which consist of both carbon dioxide and monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur, formaldehyde, benzene, and other volatile organic compounds. As such these emissions have been classified as carcinogenic. Specifically, health studies noted by the Canadian Government and supporting evidence from work published provides sufficient evidence to prove that diesel emissions are associated with increased risk to lung and bladder cancer. There is also ample evidence to show that sensitive subpopulations, such as the elderly and children are at a greater risk of adverse respiratory issues due to the exposure of diesel emissions. Short-term exposure can also irritate your eyes, nose, throat, and lungs; it can cause coughs, bronchitis, headaches, light-headedness, and nausea. So, again I am asking you - how will you reduce and mitigate the adverse health effects of breathing diesel emissions to the roughly 200 residents living within the area of the proposed gravel pit? The real answer here is that you can not. At the end of the day this is not just about a gravel pit – this is about the health and safety of human beings.

Lastly, I would like to bring to your attention some information I found within the Wilmot Township website. As I am sure you are aware Wilmot's Strategic plan was recently updated to include 5 core values – responsible governance,

community engagement, economic prosperity, environmental protection, and quality of life. A direct quote from the documentation states “As a leadership group, we are committed to holding our teams accountable in ensuring we maintain focus on the core values of Wilmot, while achieving the various goals and strategies”. So, counsel, I am holding **YOU** accountable tonight. I am urging you to stand by your strategic plan, protect your residents, protect our environment. Protect us! Please remember that this decision will set a precedent. We do not want a gravel pit in our back yard, and I am assuming you would not either.

Thank you

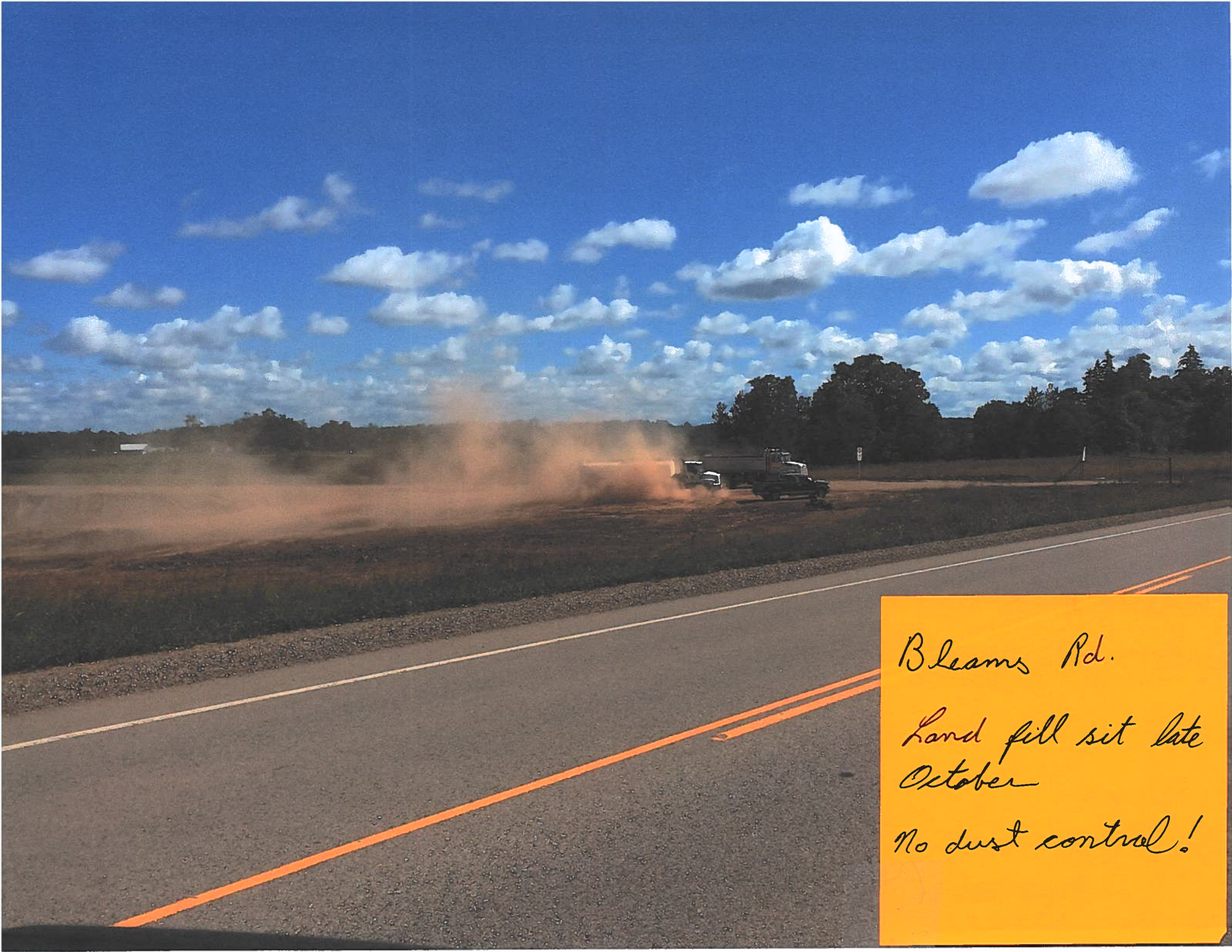
A photograph of a road at night. A white line runs diagonally from the bottom left towards the top right. To the left of this line, there are yellow dashed lines. The background is dark and blurry, suggesting a night scene with some distant lights or structures.

Late October

Highland Rd.
"Tri City Pit"
Pic. 1-2-3







Bleams Rd.

Land fill sit late
October

No dust control!

Thank you Mayor Armstrong and councillors for allowing me to speak tonight. My name is Christina Harnack and I have lived in Shingletown for 6 years. It is important that you hear both data and the personal perspective. I am a mom of two young girls and I have concerns regarding the rezoning of the land for the proposed Hallman Pit. Tonight I will focus on the concerns I have in regards to dust as well as the precedent this will set for the rezoning of prime agricultural land in a source water protected area behind people's homes.

We are living in a pandemic where we are all too aware of the importance of health and the risks of respiratory diseases. The harm and adverse health effects caused by dust and noise are not something that can be washed away or prevented by a vaccination. We should know now, more than ever, the importance of protecting the health of the most vulnerable. Learning about the adverse health effects of dust and noise in my research has been alarming. Much of the data I wish I could unlearn because it puts into question if we can safely stay in our home with an operating gravel pit across the street.

I have protected my children from my own fears and worries but they inevitably know about the possible Gravel Pit. My oldest daughter actually sent Mr. Esbaugh a letter of objection that included two simple questions: "Will I be safe crossing the road? Will the noise from the trucks wake me up?". I was dismayed, though not surprised, by the 9 page legal jargon she received in response. I am asking Wilmot Council to do right by our children and to make this decision with the utmost care. I am not expecting Mr. Esbaugh to protect them.

If you lived in Shingletown you would know that residents used to be overwhelmed by the smell of silage from a feedlot operation. Other residents have told me they can always smell the rain coming from down the hill. On days with an east wind, we can all smell the sweet smell of bagels and donuts being recycled on the farm across from Meadow Acres more than 2km away. Many of us strategically time when we clean our windows in the spring after the pollen has fallen from the surrounding pine trees. These are anecdotes from **people** about how air moves. In this case, these **people** deserve more than just anecdotal evidence or predictions of how dust and air travels. We need to have baseline and cumulative conditions and an assessment of the impacts studied.

In a very simplistic explanation, Dust and Fine Particulate Matter is produced from the operations of a gravel pit. Fine particulate matter, 10 microns or less in diameter (PM 10) can be inhaled and is considered toxic under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). In this instance, evidence demonstrates that seniors and young children are the most at risk with increased exposure of PM 10. PM 10 is related to increases in cardiopulmonary disease, asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, and premature death in those with pre-existing conditions. Crystalline silica dust is common from processing sand and gravel and is a known carcinogen. Any dust report needs to include a specific analysis of crystalline silica content and dispersion. You have heard this evening examples of recent studies from medical journals that point to air pollution being the cause of neurodegenerative diseases like **Alzheimer's** and **Parkinson's**, and in premature deaths. It is not an exaggeration to say that your alarm bells should be ringing.

If you plan on approving this rezoning, there have not been adequate studies on dust and noise to ensure that mitigation measures for air pollution and PM standards will go far enough to protect the 200 citizens who live on the edge of this gravel pit. There needs to be studies that are comprehensive and that take into account the cumulative impacts. Where are the Air Impact Assessments? How have you communicated these findings to the people who will live around this proposed pit? What analysis will be completed during the operation of this proposed gravel pit to analyse the actual air pollution? If the answers to these questions are unknown and if Wilmot Council is not “prudent” to demand these studies and monitoring, the health of people like me and my children living in Wilmot will be compromised and this is not acceptable. I will be following up to ask each of you what information you have in regards to an Air Quality Assessment and it is your duty to understand this data before you move forward.

I want to share with you some examples of studies and data in regards to dust.

There are many studies that link air pollution to brain inflammation and cell damage. Connections have been researched in the area of fetal impacts leading to developmental challenges in children when the mothers were exposed to pollution; there are studies connecting exposure to air pollution to anxiety and depression in youth which is already on the rise according to SickKids. There is a frequently cited study from the US of 1400 women across the country that found

that, the more that these women were subjected to exposure to particulate matter the less white matter they had. It is important to understand that a decrease in white matter is strongly associated with dementia.

In 2017, UNICEF published a special paper on How Air Pollution Can Affect Brain Development in Young Children. “With every breath, children take in more air per unit of body weight than adults. By extension, when air is toxic, they take in more toxic air per unit of body weight than adults. Children in our community will be at risk because they live near the gravel pit and breathe and swallow its dust.”

Many experts feel that Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change allowable Particulate Matter standards do not go far enough to ensure clean safe air. If you support rezoning for the purposes of the gravel pit you are agreeing to standards that apparently have never been stringent enough and that do not take into account the recent research on resultant brain health concerns. A recent critical report “The Air We Breathe”, by David Boyd (David Suzuki Foundation) recommends more stringent legally binding Canadian air quality standards. Please be a part of protecting the air that we breathe.

As you know, in Wilmot’s Strategic plan you have identified 6 Core Values that Wilmot embraces – **health and wellbeing**, community, **legacy**, accessibility and inclusivity, forward-thinking, and **balance**.

You have an important decision before you and one that will set a precedent. This is a decision that subsequent councillors will look to and point to, not only in our Township but beyond. Are you prepared for this responsibility? In an era where reducing GreenHouse Gasses is a commitment and Climate Change is an imminent threat, how might this rezoning have irreversible consequences and what pathways are being forged for the next applications to be approved more easily and less carefully? Rezoning this prime agricultural land in a groundwater source protected area, but more importantly, on land that backs onto 50 homes, is not acceptable and should be rejected.

Just last week the Township of Wilmot Council formally recommended the approval of two subdivisions plans, referred to as the Wilmot Employment Land. The goal, as stated in the press release on February 23rd, is to attract people to

work and live in this area “to maintain a healthy tax base and ensure Wilmot remains a balanced and complete community to make Wilmot a *preferred choice* in Waterloo Region”. What a stark contrast there is between the possibility of rezoning land for a gravel pit in the backyards of *current* Wilmot residents in Shingletown to the statement of the Township’s commitment to preservation and enhancement of the natural environment for new residents. What message does this send to new residents? You have a duty to protect **current** residents who already live here.

This new development will be surrounded by farmland. What will prevent this precedent decision of rezoning to allow for aggregate extraction beside this community? Would it be acceptable to have an operating gravel pit behind WO and Sir Adam Beck? I have a hard time imagining that approval for new homes to be built within 150meters of an existing gravel pit would be permitted. The opposite should also be unimaginable. This vibrant community and countryside could very well turn into a patchwork of pits, this does not sound like a “preferred choice” for our region.

Please reflect back to Wilmot’s 6 Core values. This is a responsibility to our **health** and **wellbeing** as a community. This is a **legacy** that you will be a part of determining in protecting the health of our community from drinking water to dust & noise pollution. **Balance** cannot be putting economic ventures before the health of *people*. You are making decisions because you were elected by **us**, but your decisions are further reaching than that. This decision will impact my children and generations to come. They deserve to be protected. They deserve your utmost care and attention to do no harm. For this reason, I ask that you reject the application for the rezoning of the Hallman Pit.

In a recent Peer Reviewed article in PubMedCentral the findings indicate that it is women in leadership positions and in governmental organizations who are more likely to support efforts to improve health practices and the health of communities. I am calling on **all** of you as elected councillors and Mayor Armstrong to protect our health, our children, and our community in your decision.

Thank you.



CITIZENS FOR
SAFE
GROUND
WATER

Noise and Air Quality

March 1st, 2021 - Wilmot Township Council Meeting, 7pm

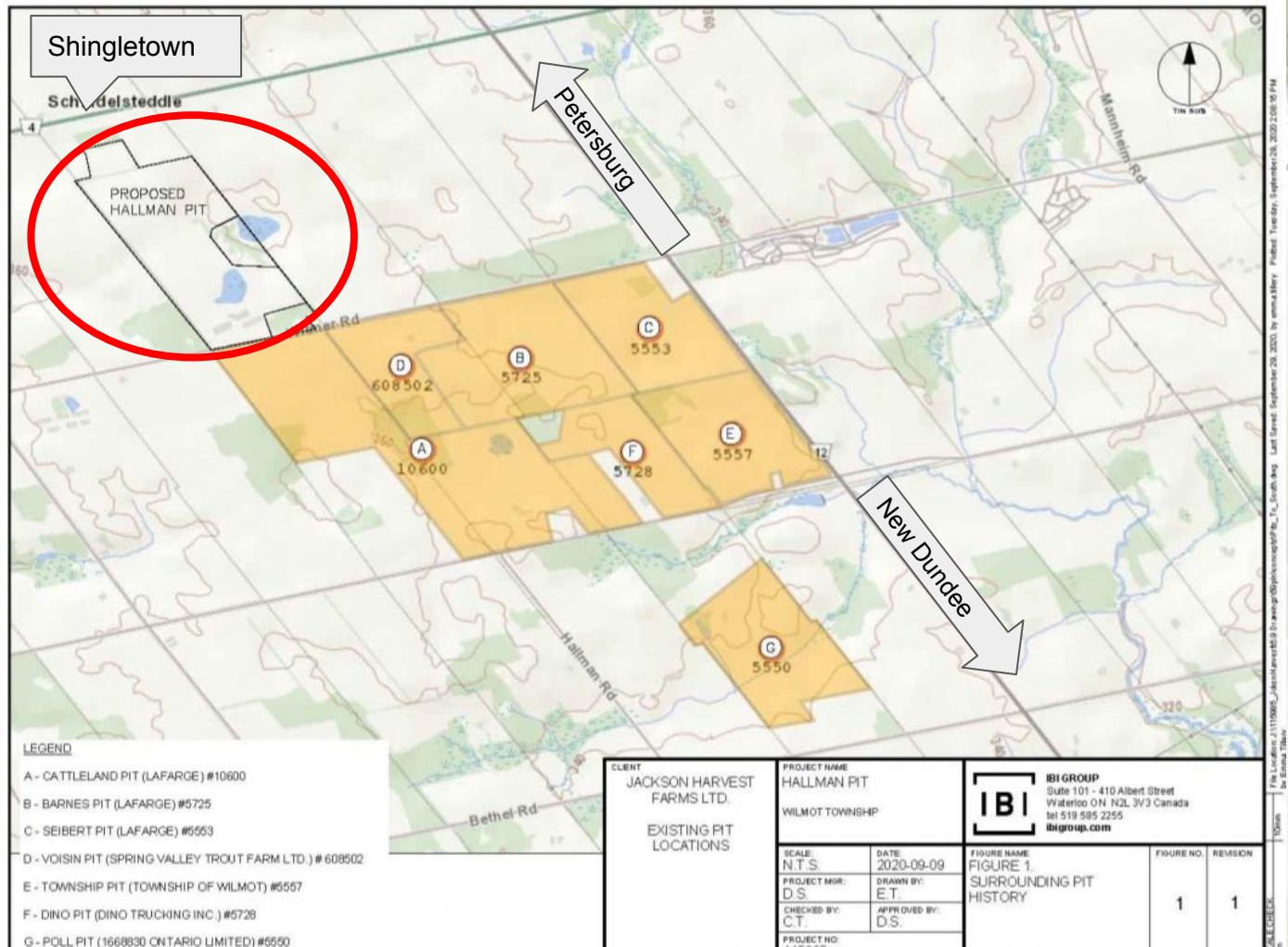



FIGURE 1: Existing Pit Locations
 10/09/2020 11:11:00AM / Jackson Harvest Farms Ltd. / Schindelstiedle Rd, Petersburg Rd, Mannheim Rd, Hallman Rd, Bethel Rd, New Dundee
 Last Saved: September 28, 2020, by emma.illery / Published: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 2:08:07 PM
 by Emma Illery

statements made are based on expert reviews commissioned by the Region of Waterloo, Wilmot Township and Citizens for Safe Ground Water Inc., as well as the Grand River Conservation Authority, to date

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED HALLMAN PIT




CITIZENS FOR
**SAFE
GROUND
WATER**


CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The combined impact of all 'past, present and future' gravel pits


HEALTH IMPACTS



Increased noise levels due to truck activity, alarms and extraction




Health effects from exposure to harmful fine particulate matter (dust)




Potential for contamination of our drinking water in sensitive recharge areas

ECONOMIC IMPACTS




Traffic from dump trucks causes safety concerns and increased costs for municipalities




Loss of 200 acres of prime farmland. Financial viability of farming is decreased after land is used for aggregate extraction


ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS



Destruction and fragmentation of wetlands and habitats



Auxiliary activities, such as aggregate washing, increase potential for groundwater contamination



Operational practices, such as fuel storage and asphalt recycling, increase risk of pollution

Agenda

1. Issues with the Hallman Pit application
 - a. Noise
 - b. Air Quality
2. Cumulative Impacts
3. Precedent for Industrial Aggregate Applications in Wilmot Township

Experts Commissioned

Purpose	Organization
Acoustic Peer Review	J.E. Coulter and Associates
Air Quality Peer Review	Di GiSci Environmental Consulting Inc.
Traffic Impacts Review	True North Safety
Conformance to the Official Plans	Ramsay Planning Inc.
Legal Representation	Canadain Environmental Law Association

- The Region and Township have also commissioned reviews

Franco DiGiovanni

- Senior Project Manager with DiGiSci Environmental consulting.
- Author of the International Standard Guideline on Air Quality Impact Assessments



Health effects from
exposure to harmful fine
particulate matter (dust)

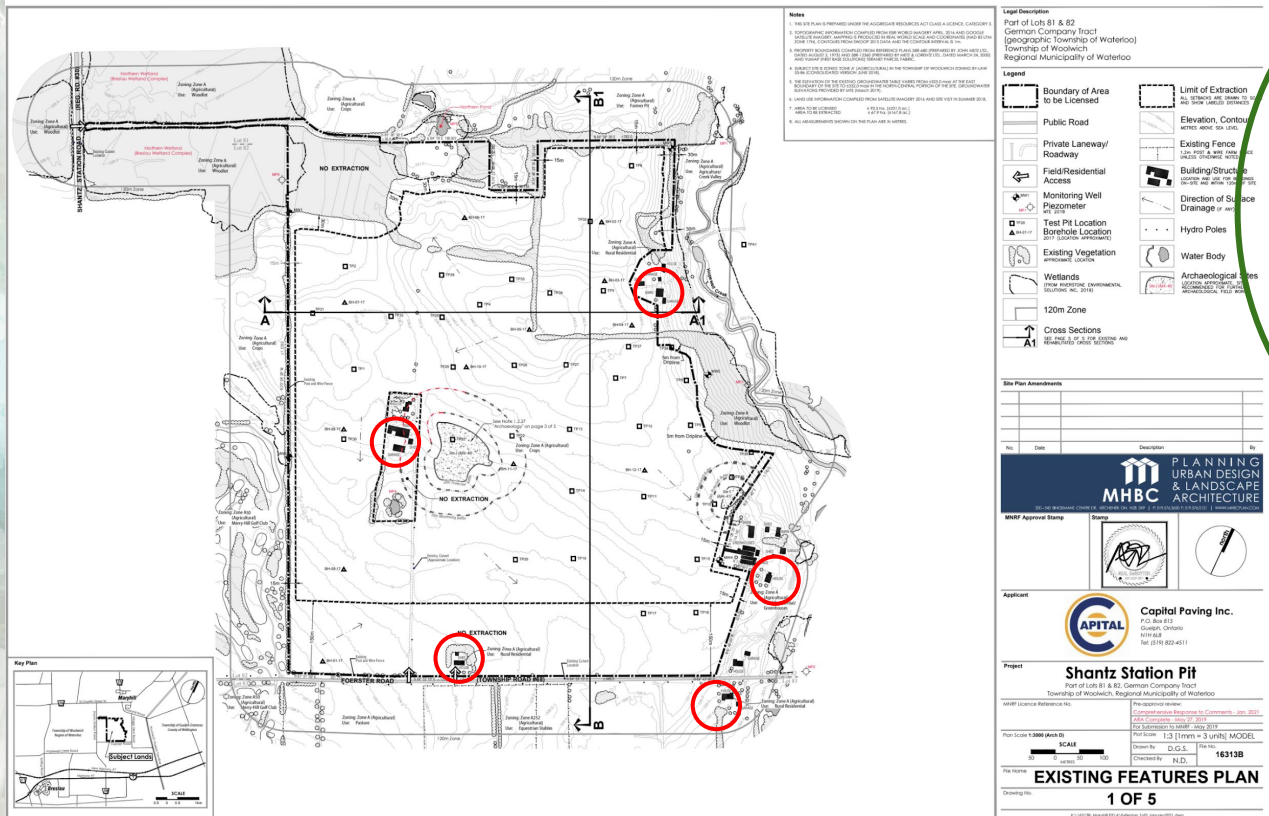
Air Quality

"Re-zoning applications under the Planning Act must conform to the Provincial Policy Statement, and especially s.1.2.6. This section requires potential adverse effects to be avoided. For air quality assessments adverse effects (e.g., harm to community health) can only be tested by accounting for pre-existing levels of air quality (imposed by current aggregate pits and other activities in the area) together with the incremental additions to air quality imposed by the proposed Hallman Pit. The resultant, cumulative air quality impacts are those that could affect the health of the community downwind of the Hallman and other pits in the area, if operating simultaneously" - Franco DiGiovani



Health effects from
exposure to harmful fine
particulate matter (dust)

Shantz Station Pit



- **Noise Impact Analysis** - June 2020

Air Quality Assessment

- **Air Quality Peer Review** - December 2019
- **Response to Peer Review** - February 2020
- **Region of Waterloo Response to Peer Review** - April 2020
- **Response to Peer Review** - May 2020
- **Response to Peer Review** - June 2020
- **Response to Peer Review** - August 2020



Health effects from exposure to harmful fine particulate matter (dust)

HALLMAN PIT

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN
SHEET 1 OF 7

NOTE: 120 m setback goes through residents properties and homes

Proposed hours of operation:

Mon 6am-7pm
Tues 6am-7pm
Wed 6am-7pm
Thurs 6am-7pm
Fri 6am-7pm
Sat 7am-5pm
Sun 7am-12pm
*night operations possible

Why no air quality assessment?



Health effects from exposure to harmful fine particulate matter (dust)

EXISTING CONDITIONS

FIGURE 2
HALLMAN PIT, JACKSON HARVEST FARMS LTD.
TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT, REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO
SCALE NTS
DATE SEPTEMBER 24, 2019
PROJECT No. 115985



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ibi@ibi.com

J.E. COULTER ASSOCIATES LIMITED

*CONSULTING ENGINEERS in
ACOUSTICS, NOISE & VIBRATION*

John. E. Coulter

- Graduate of the University of Toronto.
- Engineer with the Noise Pollution Control Section of the Ministry of Environment for a number of years -**wrote the book**
- Private consultant regarding noise pollution for over 30 years.
- President of J.E. Coulter Associates with the goal of helping with the environmental implications of noise pollution.



Increased noise
levels due to truck activity,
alarms and extraction

Summary

1. The backyards of the residences on Bleams Road north of the gravel pit have been incorrectly assumed to be located in a Class 2 area.
2. Noise monitoring at 2115 and 2183 Bleams Road showed that the ambient sound levels from the road traffic on Bleams Road were mostly 2 to 3 dB below the 50 dBA 1-Hour L_{eq} exclusion limit for a Class 2 area. The measured sound levels imply that the rear yards of the residences in the worst-case scenario are closer to Class 3 area.
3. The truck routes to/from the gravel pit and the recycling plant have not been considered in the report and no acoustical mapping for the haul routes has been provided as requested in *NPC-233*.
4. The report does not provide details about the recycling plant or an acoustic analysis and the necessary mitigation that might be required.

We trust the above will assist in your review of this project. Should there be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

J. E. COULTER ASSOCIATES LIMITED

John E. Coulter, B.A.Sc. P.Eng.

Brendon Colaco, B.A.Sc.



Increased noise
levels due to truck activity,
alarms and extraction

HEALTH IMPACTS



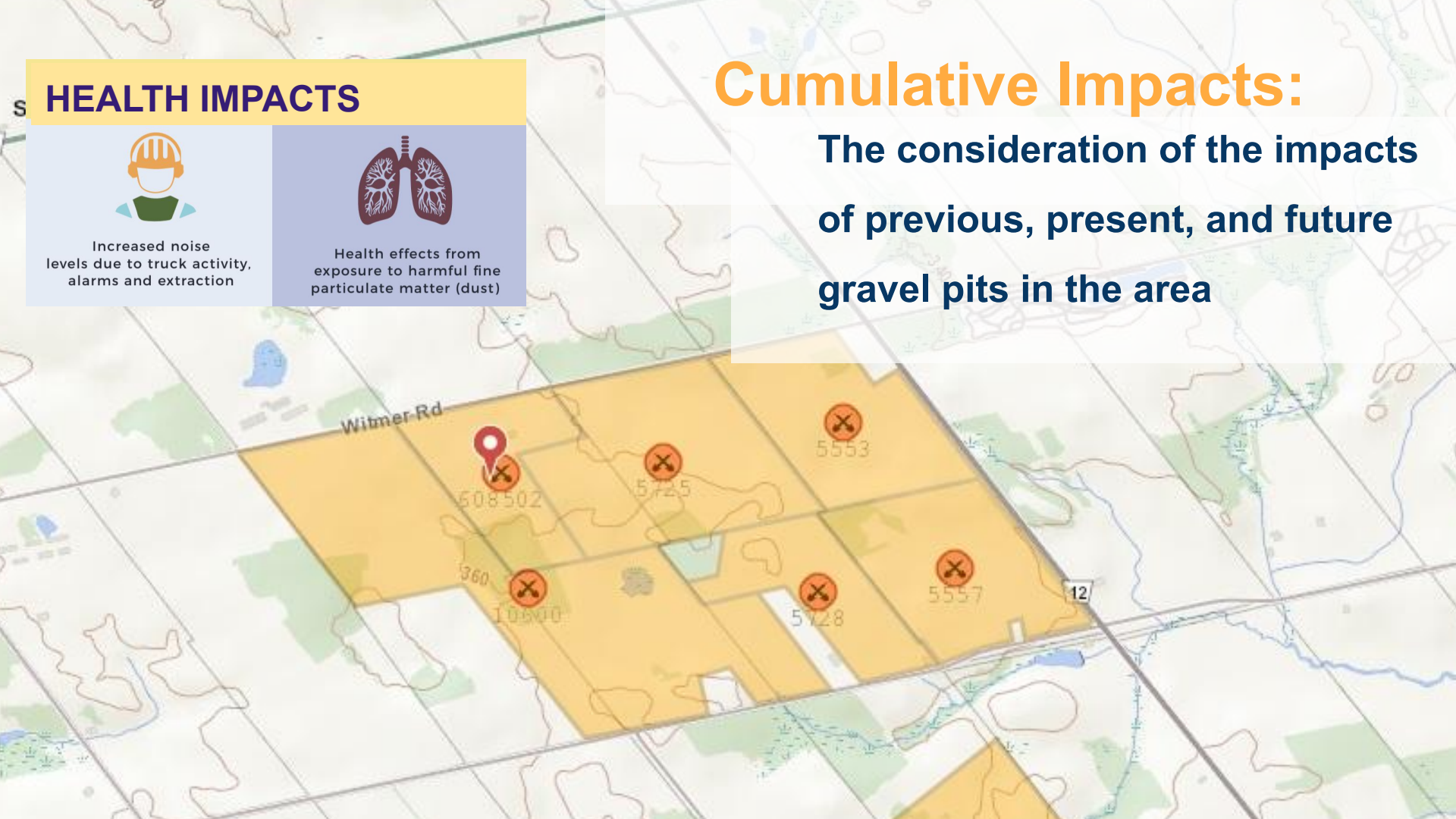
Increased noise levels due to truck activity, alarms and extraction



Health effects from exposure to harmful fine particulate matter (dust)

Cumulative Impacts:

The consideration of the impacts of previous, present, and future gravel pits in the area



Impacts NOT addressed

- The Hallman Pit sets an Unacceptable precedent

There is a need for:



1. An air quality assessment report



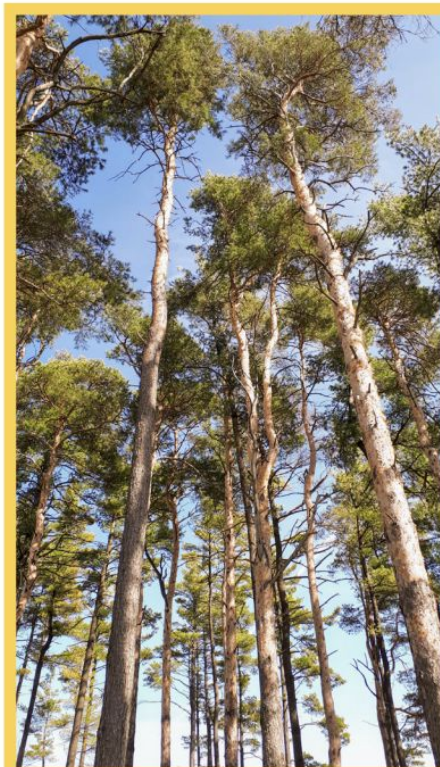
2. Correct noise standards and modelling in Shingletown



3. Attention to noise and air quality impacts along the Haul Route



4. Cumulative impacts (7.2.4.3) must be reviewed by an expert third party



Snapshots of a Township Worth Protecting

Thank You



CITIZENS FOR
SAFE
GROUND
WATER

*For more information to show
your support please contact:*

“Citizens for Safe Ground Water”
on Facebook

www.safeH2O.ca

wilmotgroundwater@gmail.com