

20 Jun 2022

Greg Kirton

Director of Community Services

Township of East Ferris

Sir,

My wife, Suzanne Taillefer-Boland has lived on Taillefer Rd Corbeil all her life. After being married, we moved into the house adjoining the Taillefer farm and have lived here for the past 37 years. We both enjoy the peace and tranquility of country living. I am now retired and spend my time outdoors on our property enjoying various activities.

Prior to and after moving here, we were aware of what was then called Houle's pit or the sand pit on Lavigne Road. It backed onto the original Taillefer farm. I visited that sand pit on various occasions with Suzanne's relatives. There was little activity there that we were aware of and we weren't bothered often by any noise coming from there.

I can't put an exact time frame on it, but there is a noticeable increase in activity. The sound of reverse warning alarms on trucks and equipment as well as the banging of dump truck tail gates is readily noticeable. There is also other heavy equipment noise. I even complained to Rick Champagne about the reverse alarms during a visit to our farm.

In April of this year, we were served notice via registered mail that there was an application for an aggregate licence in East Ferris Township. Further to that we learned it was on the adjoining property to ours that the licence was being applied for. You can't imagine the concern this has caused us.

On 19 May 2022 at 625 pm, an explosion which we later learned was a blast, rocked our house. I instinctively ducked and we got outside not knowing what was happening. After a bit of investigation, we learned that it was an aggregate blast in Houle's pit. My biggest concern was for our well and foundation. We've had pristine water from our well for the 37 years we've been here. There may have been damage from that blast. I'm told that blast was not legal.

I started doing some research by reading the Aggregate Act and where we stood with the township and OMB. I also read the registered letter and application more thoroughly.

So, let's do some math and please correct me if required as I was never strong in this subject.

The original pit is classed such that they can take 20,000 tonnes a year. The application for our adjoining property is for 450,000 tonnes of aggregate per year.

That's an increase of more than **22 times the activity currently allowed** plus the current activity.

I couldn't understand what that means so I had a trucker friend over to explain it to me and here's how he put it. There are approximately 200 working days in a year. Divide that into the potential tonnage requested in the application. That equals 2,250 tonnes a day. A triaxle dump truck holds approximately 22 tonnes. There is a potential of 100 trucks a day coming and going to and from that quarry.

Add to this noise the reverse warning alarms of all those trucks, the crusher(s) and heavy equipment to process that material and let's not forget the blasting.

I don't know the accuracy of my next point as I haven't had time to research it properly but people reading this will know and correct me. I'm told a high-end quarry blast will dislodge approximately 40,000 tonnes of material. For this application, that equates to a blast almost every month. If the blast of 19 May 2022 is any indication of what's to come, I doubt my foundation, well or septic system could withstand it for very long.

My next point is property values. People come to the country for peace, and quiet living. Who would want to live next to a quarry especially of this size? I expect our property value will drop significantly if this application is allowed. This is our nest egg to take us through whatever living arrangements we require later on.

I have a few questions for you.

1. What is the process for this application?
2. What role does this township play in that application?
3. Is re-zoning required and what is the process for that?
4. What is this township's position on this application?

5. Is there an obligation on the township's part to protect its affected tax paying residents from such a development ie nuisance noise, loss of enjoyment of property, loss of property values etc?
6. Will the township advise its citizens of the application and potential impacts to them?
7. Will the township host a public information night to discuss this application?
8. Has an environmental impact study been completed?
9. Has the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority been involved?

We replied to the Ministry of Natural Resources and the applicant voicing our significant concerns and objection to this application. We also advised we have retained legal council and will be vigorously opposing this. The deadline for written objections was today but we have asked for an extension to get more information.

I was going to attend the township office today to discuss this matter and where we go from here, but thought it best to put some of our concerns in writing to allow you to digest it.

We look forward to your reply and would be happy to attend the office at your convenience.

Thank you,

David and Suzanne

705-471-0655