

March 1, 2023

Township of Wilmot
60 Snyder's Rd., Baden, Ont, N3A 1A1

Region of Waterloo
235 King St. E, Kitchener, Ont, N2G 4N5

Att'n Mayor Salonen and Council, Chair Redman and Council

**Objection to the Settlement of Jackson Harvest farms LTD, 1894-1922
Witmer Rd, Wilmot**

CASE #: OLT 22-003789

Please consider this letter of objection to the settlement between Jackson Harvest Farms LTD, The Corporation of the Township of Wilmot, and the Region of Waterloo.

The settlement excluded the Citizens for Safe Groundwater (CSGW) and the public from delegating/commenting to either council on this settlement decision.

It is my position that both the Regional and Township Councils failed to uphold their duty to endorse the community's position, defend the inadequacies identified by Experts that were hired by CSGW, and the unanimous decision made by Wilmot Council in 2022 to deny the necessary municipal zone change application.

Please include this for public record and include it in the next council agenda package.

Thank you,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Lori & Mo Elash
Wilmot Township Residents
Waterloo Region Residents

Dear Mayor Salonen, Members of Council, and all in attendance (Wilmot Township Meeting, Mar. 6 2023). My name is Lori Elash and this is my husband Mo Elash. We have lived at [REDACTED] Shingletown for nearly 10 years now and feel truly thankful to call this peaceful rural community 'home.' We are compelled to be here today to add our voices to those representing and supporting Citizens for Safe Ground Water, re-stating the widespread negative results that will likely occur to the groundwater, the farmland, the wildlife, the air quality, and the health and well-being of the community members should this gravel pit be allowed. We are both firmly opposed to the Hallman Gravel Pit proposal. With respect, we expect Council to CONTINUE TO deny the requested zone change.

We have a 12 acre property, north of the proposed Hallman gravel pit, kitty corner to the inside most point of that property. The proposal indicates that aggregate mining would be in full force in that corner of land, which is about **150 meters from our back door, and from our private well. We are very concerned about the impact it may have on the water quality of our private well, which we rely on for all our water needs. To our knowledge, our private well was not inspected or investigated, and as such it is likely not included in Mr. Esbaugh's hydrogeological report. If this is the case, there is no baseline data, and the impact of the proposed gravel pit on our private well would not be able to be determined. There continue to be outstanding issues and recommendations with this proposal in general and in specific to protect private well owners that have not yet been addressed, nor safeguards committed to (outlined by Samantha Lernout and the Planscape presentations).**

Right now, the land in question is quiet, beautiful, productive farmland. This proposal would result in a huge berm instead of beautiful farmland. It would replace the tranquil quiet with loud rumbling vibrations of machinery and constant clanging and beeping of heavy vehicles which would carry throughout our community- 6 days a week! Large vehicle traffic would be greatly increased, and the potential contamination of water and air has been shown repeatedly. We rent 8 acres of our land to a neighboring farmer. Water from the neighboring fields washes into and often floods our field in the spring, some years accumulating into what we fondly call 'Horseshoe Lake' as it surrounds 3 sides of our home before eventually soaking into the ground. We don't even want to imagine what the spring runoff might bring with it if this proposal is granted, or how it might affect our farmland.

The proposed gravel pit would also result in unnecessary health concerns for residents. The fine particulate matter from the excavations and extra diesel in the air from the trucks and excavators are likely to cause breathing and other significant health issues, which will only become evident over time.

We implore you to please represent and protect us, your citizens, to consider our well-being and quality of life, and to do what's best for Wilmot Township and beyond by protecting the invaluable and irreplaceable resources of prime farmland and groundwater, the groundwater which supplies not only Wilmot Township but also Waterloo Region.