

# APPENDIX S

April 12 Council presentation

## Title picture

Mayor Armstrong, Council, thank you for listening to us here, again, as you will be asked soon **to weigh food and water for all of us against sand and gravel** (for a few).

## Picture2 St. Clements pit in Mennonite Country.

My name is Linda Laepple, known by thousands in the Region as the host of Shingletown's annual potatofest over a 12 year period till 2015. My family farms within the 1 km study area on exactly the same soil type and conditions.

## Next Picture 3 Areal picture

Why do I care today?

- I care because it must be realized this is not an ordinary piece of farm real estate that can be assessed using common templates. For the safety of the community, it's history needs to be fully investigated and then the entire property assessed and treated accordingly. Not just the residential portion as stated in the side condition report filed with the Ministry.
- I care because, Jackson Harvest Farm and my farm, we operate both in the same source water protected area. Should anything go wrong in the gravel pit when it comes to groundwater contamination, it is very likely that things will first be blamed on me since my family farms next to the Regional wells.
- **I care because the soil in this area allows us to grow almost any crop, it's like gardening on a raised bed. I know after extraction and rehabilitation of the gravel pit it will be like trying to grow something in a leaking bathtub.**

While missing or ignoring relevant information The Hallman pit AIA concluded:

..... minimal impact on the surrounding agricultural activities within the Study Area.

## Next Picture 4 Land use picture

This where the problem starts:

**The Radius of study area is limited to 1 km from the proposed site which leads to false representation of the area and technical errors in the following:**

**4.2 Land use**

**4.3.3 Irrigation**

**4.4 Land fragmentation**

**5.2 Traffic**

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## Specialty crops

### Investments

#### I like to start with the impact on traffic

- Traffic impact doesn't stop after 1km. We farmers need to use Regional Roads too and so do the added trucks from the pit. About 15 years ago we felt trucking traffic impact first hand. My husband was driving on Queen street between Wittmer and Bleams coming home with 2 loaded hay wagons when a over tired Transport truck driver rear ended him. The impact ripped the tongue off the rear wagon and send the full it flying across the road and ditch into a field. The other wagon on the tractor had its tongue bend to a u shape. It was sheer luck the impact was not fatal. Needless to say ever since we avoid driving evenings and plan trips with equipment carefully. The impact of additional truck traffic will be felt far beyond the 1 km radius and should be considered in the study. On Wittmer Road I can not imagine a tractor with duals and or equipment 12 feed wide getting passed oncoming trucks without causing damage to property.

**Under 4.2 Land use it reads: .. but for the Study Area only winter wheat was observed. Showing the entire front of our farm as one field of winter wheat when in fact there were 5 different fields, is a blatant error or false statement.**

#### Next Picture 5 areal crop map

**In 2018 multiple crops grown along Bleams Road including green peas.**

**If there was an actual windshield survey done they would have also noted the sign for potatoes on Bleams road, which we grow since over 20 years for farm gate sale and wholesale distribution. Was this specialty crop overlooked on purpose?**

#### 4.2.2

##### Land use

##### The study reads:

Neither the Subject Lands nor the Study Area is zoned an agricultural special area.

Giving the impression that there are no special crops grown in the area, just common field crops or even the assumption the land is not suited of producing special crops.

If the consultants had treated each property within the 1 km radius as a unit and not just looked at the land fraction within the radius, they would have found very special, specialty crops.

#### Next 3 Picture 6 to 9 Hmong people's garden

Plus they would have seen a firsthand demonstration of living culture in the word agriculture. They would have seen 2 fields of Asian vegetables grown by Hmong people for their community in town. Vegetables, foreign to me, but grown on the same type of soils as found in the proposed gravel pit, just across the road, on our farm.

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## **4.4 Land Fragmentation –**

Agricultural properties in the range of 10.0 – 69.9 acres and 70.0 – 128.9 acres were noted in the surrounding areas.

### **Next Picture 10 land size:**

- Again the strict 1 km radius used, only considers the full size of a parcel when completely inside the study area. It doesn't record the actual size of a parcel that are partially in the study area. Our farm for example is 187 acres in size and my neighbors to the east also in that range. But both our properties are recorded as less than 65 acres.

The study also gives the impression that small parcels are not worth investigation and therefore failed to notice that the 16 acre parcel mentioned as facility numbers 4 to 9, is in fact a research site custom feeding 300 plus head of cattle. The owner having won twice an Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence, for developing a high-temperature composting system that turns manure into garden fertilizer.

### **Investments**

#### **4.3.3 Irrigation, no investment in irrigation on the subject land or the study area.**

**First of all, these observations were made late August and October when irrigation equipment generally is already packed away and in storage.**

**In 4.3.4 it is stated that historically a bermed area existed to hold water for mixing and distributing manure but no irrigation equipment was observed. When in fact the hydrological study had an irrigation well recorded that has not been decommissioned to date.**

### **Rehabilitation:**

#### **Next Picture 11 soil cross section**

The idea of shaving off soil layer by layer and storing it separately and replying it quickly elsewhere sounds good on paper but in reality soil horizons cannot be peeled in layers like an onion. Specially in this area where you have in some areas very little topsoil and often a topsoil subsoil mix as deep as the farmer's equipment worked the land, followed by almost pure sand. The promise to put 50 cm topsoil back when there is only 15 to 30 at its best to begin with, would require massive soil imports and is just not realistic.

- Soil is what sustains us and is the only thing on Earth that actually produces.
- **Everything else on the planet is processing, value adding, shipping, business.** But truly producing are the microbes in the soil. In one handful healthy soil there are more microbes then there are people on this planet. But in the aggregate industry this very base of life on our planet, mother earth, is just part of something called "overburden."

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When you compare Canadas Landmass with a table set for 28 people. Only two plates would represent farmable areas. And only one of them would represent crop growing areas, the other marginal pasture lands.

But only a small rim of the crop growing plate would represent the area of soil classes as good as we find in Wilmot. With every rezoning from agricultural to another use we are concisely chipping away on the best part of the dinner plate.

Don't sacrifice another chip and assume there will still always be someone out there to feed you.

Mankind has in it's history done without a lot of things and times are changing fast, but we have never done without food and water. Please look at facts not just paper.

**Last picture;** Praying Manta