

Gravel pit operation draws the ire of Fifth Line neighbours

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Staff Writer

After hearing concerns from a Limehouse resident about noise, hours of operation and safety, Halton Hills council directed Town staff to look into the operation of a gravel pit on Fifth Line in Limehouse.

Fifth Line resident Tania Lediard, who lives across from the pit, recently told council that up until last year her family barely noticed it.

But she said when the pit was bought by St. Marys Cement Inc. "almost everything's changed, starting with noise."

"Almost daily my family and I are woken up by 6:45 a.m. to the window rattling sound of trailer brakes and jake brakes when the trucks come southbound on Fifth Line," said Lediard.

She said there is a school bus stop there and while there have so far been no close calls, she's worried "because our roads were never meant for this type of heavy traffic."

She also said sand from the trucks ends up on the side of the road resulting in narrowing the driving surface.

Lediard said, instead of washing the road frequently like

the previous owner of the pit did, St. Marys waters the road down causing muddy conditions, making it difficult to walk her kids to school.

"The all-around lack of respect for the community has been very stressful and represents a loss of enjoyment of my property," said Lediard.

Ward 2 councillor Bryan Lewis, who put forward the motion to look into the pit's operations, said the reaction by Lediard wasn't "knee-jerk" and had been building over time.

"It's very, very scary sitting in (their) driveway when you see these loaded trucks pulling a pup trailer down a very steep hill that, in my mind, they probably shouldn't be on," said Lewis.

Lewis said he has sent two letters to the Ministry of Natural Resources about the fact that the trucks are going into the pit loaded with gravel from another location, and has had no response.

He said the Town receives four cents a tonne for all the gravel that is hauled out of the pit and despite wear and tear on area roads and disruption to peace and quiet in the neighbourhood, "not one 10-cent piece for stuff being hauled into the pit."

"This is deserving of a very detailed study to find out

what is going on," said Lewis.

"I'm not suggesting the pit should be closed down for one second," said Lewis, "but there has to be a way of operating within the bounds of the rules and regulations we have."

Ward 2 Councillor Joan Robson agreed wholeheartedly. "For the families that live out there this has been a long, long haul," said Robson.

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