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SEARS
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Gravel firm fears rocky road ahead

By CHRIS SHANAHAN
UXBRIDGE, TWP. — An Uxbridge aggregate company faces an uncertain financial future after one of its important transportation routes was recently shut off by a no-trucking bylaw.

Timbers Brothers Sand & Gravel Limited is presently unable to use a mile stretch of Sideline 10 near the Uxbridge-Pickering Townline, and owner Merle Timbers told The Tribune this has caused a big headache.

Mr. Timbers explained his gravel trucks can no longer drive the short distance along Sideline 10 to Durham Region Road 5, where easy access is gained to major markets in southern parts of the region. Instead, vehicles must back-track a total of 15 miles on each return trip to the Uxbridge gravel pits.

"This is putting quite a tax on us. We wind up with about 15 miles added to each trip," Mr. Timbers said, estimating fuel costs for his fleet may rise by as much as 15 per cent.

A Pickering bylaw prohibiting truck traffic on Sideline 10 was supported by regional council on Jan. 14. Durham Region's works committee has since recommended council rescind the approval and allow trucks full access to the gravel road.

Mr. Timbers is hopeful a final decision will be made when involved parties further discuss the issue in Whitby March 11.

The veteran gravel pit operator said his trucks have used Sideline 10 with little or no public opposition since 1969. But he claimed a group of recently-arrived neighboring residents banded together

and pressured the municipality for a truck ban.

Signs were erected in January, effectively eliminating such traffic on a portion of the road extending slightly more than a mile to the south.

Mr. Timbers claimed his firm has earned a reputation as a good corporate citizen over the years and, therefore, deserves a fair break in this instance.

"It's not that we're a bandit outfit causing the neighbors a lot of problems," he stressed, pointing to the firm's past record of pit rehabilitation in the area.

A lawyer representing Timbers Brothers earlier told Durham Region works committee that extra travelling distance is creating higher expenses which could eventually force the gravel company out of business.

Mission to expand

WHITCHURCH — A Whitchurch-Stouffville-based mission hopes to begin work this year on a new administrative building and training facilities.

Emmanuel Relief & Rehabilitation International will attempt to gain final planning approval between now and June, before starting development at its Stouffville Road site near Kennedy Road.

The internationally-known organization recently received Town Council approval for a proposed zoning bylaw amendment on the 2.307 hectare (5.7 acre) property.

"It's going to be a quiet development... and aesthetically compatible with the surrounding community," explained Mark Middleton, Emmanuel's international executive director.

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Future uncertain for area gravel operation

Timbers Brothers Sand & Gravel Limited has felt a financial strain ever since a no-trucking bylaw was enforced on a stretch of Sideline 10 adjacent to the Claremont-area operation. The company's trucks have been forced to by-pass the road and take longer, more costly routes to markets in the south of Durham Region.

—Chris Shanahan

Hunters

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