

To Whom It May Concern

I am against the proposed pit expansion located to the east of the existing Dance Pit on Cedar Creek Road in the Township of North Dumfries by CBM Aggregates. Please consider this letter my formal comment against the expansion of the Dance Pit.

As a 25-year resident of this neighbourhood, I have seen first-hand the impact gravel pits have on a community in the areas of health, environment, and social living.

Firstly, regarding health, there is significant evidence that increased PM-10, a type of particulate matter from the pit, is related to increases in cardio-pulmonary disease, asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, pneumoconiosis, and premature death. Further, the increased concentrations of dust and silica can cause brain and kidney damage alongside long-term with lung and heart issues. There is no safe level of these particulates. As the parent of a child with a diagnosed dust allergy, the dust and allergens created by this expansion cause a significant problem in and of themselves. Due to these health effects, the community will see an increased, long-term burden on the health system including hospital visits and vital service use.

As a person with a traumatic brain injury, along with other health conditions, the impact of the expansion will negatively affect my own health. Already, noise from the pit impacts outdoor activities and the increased stimulus aggravates my condition and limits my ability to enjoy the outdoors in the city. Expanding the pit and moving it closer will only worsen these issues.

From an environmental perspective, this expansion will also cause land destruction which will abruptly interrupt open space and ruin the habitat for flora and fauna. Long-term, this has been known to cause soil erosion, create a reduction of habitable land, and deteriorate the water quality.

Finally, from a social perspective, the pit expansion will have a significant impact on our homes and lives. Since the original introduction of the pit, windows, siding, decks, and cars have significant layers of dust on them. This requires frequent care, cleaning and maintenance which will only increase with an expansion. Furthermore, the negative health risks and noise pollution will negatively affect housing value, affecting the economic abilities of the community.

With the installation of the first pit, a berm was built and trees were planted. However, at least half of these trees have died, and no-one has taken responsibility to ensure that they were replaced. If the trees are negatively impacted enough to die, it does not reflect positively on the potential health impacts to nearby residents. Further, with the lack of replacement, it is hard to believe claims that the company will work in an ongoing manner to ensure resident health.

I also have concerns about the testing of the site to ensure that these increases are safe. To date, I have not been able to find the results of these tests of the pit. Furthermore, testing in these types of areas are variable, depending on the time, date, wind, and temperature the outcome of a test is vastly altered. Without comprehensive research, that is freely available to the public, it is hard to feel safe living in such an environment.

Currently the number of pits and quarries in ON, listed on Ministry of Natural Resources sites, is alarming. North Dumfries alone already has 45 designated aggregate properties. Most of these pits are considered to be "interim land use" but have permanent social, health, and environmental impacts.

Sincerely,

Irene DeJong  
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