

To Concerned Residents,

April 12, 2021

We want to thank-you for your attending the information session for the proposed Elliott gravel pit held on April 7th and for sharing your concerns. It is our hope that the licenced professionals and engineers who were in attendance answered many of your questions. We want you to know we heard your concerns and hope to work with you to continue provide answers and hopefully reassurance that we will develop this site responsibly, using well-established guidelines- set by governing authorities.(i.e. Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Environment, etc.) The authorities who set the rules are protecting the people, the environment and the resource.

This project will contribute to the local economy in the same way other gravel pits, already existing in the neighbourhood contribute. Melanie Horton of Esher Planning will be providing a formal response to your questions on the Municipality of Thames Centre's website soon, but we wanted to write down some of the answers we have to questions you asked and continue to address some concerns.

We hope you will also hear us and consider the information we present. I guess on a sad note when the first mention of an aggregate pit (not a 'mine') was announced the opposition to this site started, before the public meeting was held and the scope of the project presented. Some people just don't want it in "their back yard," which is understandable, but this is where the aggregate is located. We did not move it here, Mother nature did. We are also local and want to do our best to get the aggregate out of the ground and quickly rehabilitate the site. We are not passing the buck and selling it to a large aggregate company to come in and do their work. We want this done with the least amount of impact to neighbours. Neighbours please try to work with us, so we can work with you!

Aggregate in Ontario is a needed resource and needs to be made available. We all do need it; for all its uses.

General Information:

1. This is a sand and gravel application. NOT any other type of aggregate.
2. It is an ABOVE water (1.5m) application- Not below - will not affect water wells or tables.
3. The estimated operational time-line for this project start to finish is 3-5 years, ending with rehabilitation back into farm land.

Truck Traffic Concern- Traffic is a concern of all of us. Yes, there will be trucks leaving this proposed site. Thorndale is located on County main roads which permits truck traffic. At the meeting it was discussed that there would be 4-5 trucks per hour leaving this site. Gravel trucks will continue to be in the area as the area produces and consumes gravel. Especially with all the residential homes and streets that are being built. If concerns arise that trucks are not operating lawfully there are authorities, you can contact such as the police.

It is considered environmentally responsible to extract and use gravel close to its source. This pit has the potential reduce the distance trucks need travel on our roads as it is so close to areas that are consuming a lot of gravel at this time. Additionally, we plan to use some of this gravel on the 8.92 acres adjacent to the proposed site to build roads for future residential development which means some of

the aggregate would not be trucked down any roads. I hope the information provided satisfies your concerns.

Dust Concern, School and Air Quality- we understand dust is a consequence of gravel and will follow well-established guidelines to control. Gravel is used on all our gravel roads and under our paved roads. It is used to build sidewalks, pools, laneways, homes, schools, buildings etc.) If we can work together with neighbours to help create a more comfortable situation using site specific best practices, enhancement of vegetation, enhanced berming, or potentially fencing options that are beyond the scope of regulations we will try. We do not believe this project elevates health risks to neighbours and especially the school but are willing to look at reasonable options that will go above requirements. We can try to mitigate concerns at the school by establish working 'best practises' ideas specific to this site. For example: if high winds from the south west are blowing heavy winds towards the school, then on those days we could discontinue crushing as a working best practice. On a personal note the timeline indicates that our own granddaughter could attend this school during the operational period, and we have absolutely no concerns that this gravel and sand site will affect her health or experience at the school in any way.

Please note that Rosewood residential development directly south of Wye Creek and the school is NOT our development so we can not mitigate dust from gravel, sand and topsoil blowing towards Wye Creek homes and the school from that site. Also please consider: Many people live on gravel roads and gravel does create dust, but most do not consider gravel and sand dust a general health risk.

We hope that this information and the technical answers provided by Senior Engineer David Speller at EXP Services Inc. have answered your questions and satisfied your concerns.

Noise Concern -we understand that noise is a consequence of any business and we will follow established requirements to mitigate noise created as a result of this proposed project. We have planned for the crusher to be placed at the farthest distance possible from Trails at Wye Creek and the homes at the corner of Nissouri and Thorndale Road to mitigate noise issues. At the meeting the closest neighbour to the proposed crusher area that the noise could impact the most, spoke in favour of this project and gave some 'real-life experience' information as a person who has lived in Thorndale, adjacent to gravel pits all his life. We thank him for his practical information and real-life understanding. If we can work together, we will consider enhancing noise protection features such as berm enhancements and enhanced vegetation. We are grateful to our neighbours to Bob and Darlene who understand the application and have chosen to work with us.

In our farm business and development business we try to use 'best practices' and work to try to mitigate impacts our businesses have on others and be a good neighbour. We will do the same with this proposed project. I hope this information and the answers provided at the meeting by HGC Engineering -Senior Acoustical Engineer Mandy Chan satisfy concerns.

Rehabilitation Concern- we will rehabilitate back to farmland- we have no concern with our ability to do this as we farm and understand the soil requirements for cropping.

Property Value Decreasing as a result of near Gravel Pit Concern: -There have been and continues to be gravel pits operating very close to Trails at Wye Creek for many years. The recently completed gravel pit to the north of the site and the currently operational County pit across the road from the proposed site

have existed while home prices have continued to rise over the last 15 years. These gravel pits are in very close proximity have not shown to reduce the value of homes in Trails at Wye Creek, or Thorndale, we expect the same result with the proposed pit.

Visual Concern We will consider planting more vegetation on the proposed site borders to improve aesthetics.

You asked “why we didn’t do this before now?”

We did not begin this project in 2001 because we did not own the property until 2016. The sand and gravel has always been located in this spot and removal has been contemplated as shown by the earlier dated reports, not prepared by us. To our knowledge, this is “the last part” of the larger deposit area, much of which has already been extracted over many years without any general adverse effects to health, property values or the environment on record. At this time there is a pit located across the road owned by the County just to the south west of Thorndale Roof Truss plant. Approximately 3 years ago a gravel pit finished on the property north of this proposed site- also across from Wye Creek Subdivision and very close to residents and the school, many residents did not even realise it was there.

On a personal note: Pat & I are part of this community. We work hard and operate several businesses that we are very proud of. This community is our home and give back through volunteering, donating and partnerships with others. Pat is a 35 year Lion’s club member & local volunteer. Previously I co-chaired the splashpad build and was chairperson on the first committee for the new community centre. I am currently a director on the Seniors Non-Profit West Nissouri Apartment Complex here in Thorndale. I include this personal information only as a quiet response to personal discredit that has been given by a few in this application process.

We want to work together with concerned members of our community to provide realistic accurate information about this application and clear up misunderstandings.

The information provided in this letter is our perspective and hopefully answers some concerns on the proposal, we make no representation that we are experts in aggregate but do state we will continue to hire those and listen to those that are. We have hired the educated licenced professionals including engineers and planners to plan a responsible gravel and sand extraction application and plan to move the proposal forward in a responsible, professional manner. We will continue to work with the community through the process to try and resolve objections. We hope you will choose to work with us as we provide answers to your questions, rather than oppose.

Sincerely and Without prejudice,

Pat & Jane Elliott