

March 31, 2022

From: Miss Stella Juhasz,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Clarksburg, Ontario

NOH 1JO

To: Honourable Mayor Alar Soever, Town of Blue Mountains

Councillors: Andrea Matrosovs, Jim Uram, Paula Hope, Rob Sampson

Deputy Mayor: Peter Bordignon

This is a letter of concern to address the issue of uncontained Construction Site hazardous/toxic material debris.

Through observation of construction sites in the Clarksburg area the following is a description of my observations and their cause and effects:

1. the construction of new buildings and the demolition of old buildings (e.g. farm houses, barns, garages) often contain insulating material such as Polystyrene, pink fiberglass.

During demolition of such structures these materials are placed in open, uncovered mixed waste bins that also contain:

concrete, treated wood, metal, shingles, PVC plastic pipes.

2. When these lightweight hazardous materials are part of the mix, they easily blow out during high wind storms. This windblown debris further undergoes the process of breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces that are hard to see, and spreads over a large area.

- Polystyrene foam (Dow Chemical Trade name Styrofoam) used for insulation is hazardous: to wildlife when ingested, and which leeches toxic/hazardous chemicals (e.g. Styrene) during decomposition which takes 500 hundred years.

4. This windblown debris not only covers the construction site, it spreads to neighboring private residential properties, and adjacent farm pasture lands, fallow fields, crop fields

5. These hazardous/toxic materials pose serious health/safety hazards for:

- crop soil contamination

- livestock grazing, livestock alfalfa feed,

- contamination of bird habitats (i.e. used for nesting and foraging) for the:

threatened Eastern Meadowlark, killdeers, Canada Geese and many other birds that frequent these farm fields.

- water quality of adjacent roadside ditches, streams and rivers.

- contribute to the accumulation of microplastics pollutants into Nottawasaga Bay.

Page 2

In a broader sense from an environmental standpoint, this is an important issue of concern that should be addressed.

The Waste Management Department has already recognized the importance of containing/ reducing construction waste by taking ACTION through the pilot projects for Dry Wall Disposal, polystyrene, and the installation of Sea Bins in Thornbury Harbor boat slips.

Therefore, I ask for your support to address this concern and affirm this commitment one step further - a review of construction site waste regulations for hazardous waste materials, under the Property Standards By-Laws, that would require such hazardous waste to be contained in onsite covered waste bins.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Stella Juhasz, a concerned citizen, permanent private property owner, voter and a supporter of our beautiful community.

CC: Jim Fletcher, Mgr., Solid Waste Mgt, Mr. Tim Murawsky  
Chief Building Office, Town of Blue Mountain Building Dept.