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400 Eighth St. E.
Fort Frances, ON.

P9A 1X5

Aug 22, 2019

Fort Frances Town Council,
320 Portage Ave. Fort Frances, ON.
P9A 3P9

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Dumping of raw sewage by Art Hammond at lot behind 400 Eighth St. E., Fort Frances.

In late summer, 2018, an employee of Hammond Landscaping Ltd., told my visitor that the septic tank sewage from the greenhouse/nursery business was being pumped into Hammond's tank truck and that Art Hammond was dumping this raw sewage at the back of the lot behind 400 Eighth St. E. ... the reason being that there was no insurance or licence on the tank truck. When this was related to me by my visitor, I checked the licence plate of the tank truck and the last sticker on the plate had expired Nov. 2015! I have since

witnessed the contents of the office septic tank being pumped into this tank truck and Art Hammond driving the truck to the back of the lot. When I check the truck on my daily walks, I eventually find the back latch on the tank open, indicating the sewage has been dumped (when no one is around) and the truck is usually moved over a bit. Since there is no tell tale 'odour', it can be assumed that Art is either digging a hole to dump the sewage into and then back-filling the hole or mixing the sewage into his topsoil. Art has the equipment and material readily available to do either.

The manager of the greenhouses, Twila Hammond Mac Intosh has to be well aware of where this sewage is being dumped as she tells the employees when the septic tank requires pumping and she is solely responsible for keeping licences and insurance updated on ALL company vehicles and equipment and would therefore know that the sewage is being dumped on site!

On a separate matter: when the green-houses switched from fuel oil to natural gas, Art Hammond upended all of the fuel oil tanks along the west side behind 400 Eighth St. E. to drain the fuel oil from the tanks --- approximately 10 tanks draining fuel oil into the ground! For several days, the smell of fuel was so strong, especially early mornings, I had to keep my house closed up and could not go outside or onto my patio at all without getting an immediate headache and nauseous. This was reported to 'Environment - re spills' at 1-800-268-6060. Someone showed up and talked to Art. Just what tale of 'factual fabrication' Art made up for this person is unknown; however, no proper clean up was conducted to the best of my knowledge.

Does anything of the raw sewage and fuel oil seep into mine and neighbouring sump hole basins --- and where would it go from there? Mine pumps directly into the ditch along Eighth St. I am, on occasion, seeing a bluish rainbow swirl in my sump

basin indicative of gas or fuel contamination.

This spring as the ground thawed and my sump pump started working, I noticed a fuel odour in my basement and in the utility room which is located at the top of the stairs to the basement. I had to open the house and use several fans to get the fuel odour out of the house. However, I cannot leave my house open at night and am waking with a headache and nausea when the odour is present. Fortunately, we have had a dry summer and low water table and my sump pump has not had to be pumping. What happens when the water table raises and my sump pump starts working as usual? With the onset of colder weather, I cannot have my house open! What happens if the fuel fumes build up in the basement of a closed home and the furnace kicks in? Am I sitting on a bomb?

Also, a police officer visited me within the past year, and told me of a new drug that is in town and its effect on users. Upon leaving, this officer

told me, "keep your doors and windows locked 24/7 and get a dog!"
I am a senior living alone. Do I chance an intruder or gas poisoning?

Why wasn't Art Hammond forced to remove the fuel contaminated soil before it leached underground and/or into the nearby ditch?

If I wish to sell my property in the future, will I be facing a costly environmental cleanup? Why are Art and Trida allowed to continue this type of pollution of their property and now neighbouring properties, with NO consequences?

Thank you

Sincerely

Nioma Holden

cc's