

CRAA March 2026 Newsletter

THE ISSUE

Residents in Cramahe Township are strongly opposing Fidelity Property Group Inc.'s proposed permanent, 24/7 asphalt plant due to significant concerns about environmental and public health risks, as the facility would emit pollutants linked to respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease, and cancer, raising serious alarms about air quality, groundwater protection, and potential impacts on nearby wetlands.

Increased heavy truck traffic presents a major concern, as the local road is not designated or designed as a Heavy Truck Haulage Route. The additional truck traffic generated by the asphalt plant would cause excessive wear and tear, leading to significantly higher maintenance and repair costs that would ultimately be borne by Cramahe residents.

Furthermore, community members are worried that the facility's presence will negatively affect nearby property values, threatening the economic well-being of homeowners in the area.

STATUS UPDATE

The Cramahe Residents Advocates Association (CRAA) has taken significant legal and regulatory action to halt the proposed asphalt plant, beginning with raising Township awareness regarding the denial of 24-hour operation support and submitting detailed comments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

Demonstrating its serious commitment, the organization retained the leading national law firm Gowling WLG to coordinate a formal response to Fidelity's application for an Environmental Compliance Approval submitted to the Ministry of the Environment.

When Fidelity responded to the Ministry of Natural Resources on public comments, the group prepared another detailed rebuttal and has since filed an Application for Investigation under the Environmental Bill of Rights to further challenge the proposal.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

The Cramahe Residents Advocates Association (CRAA) has achieved significant milestones in its campaign against the proposed asphalt plant. The organization successfully organized by incorporating as CRAA Inc. and establishing a comprehensive online presence, including a website and Facebook page, which has become a key resource referenced by AI engines on the subject.

It effectively mobilized the community by holding three information sessions, collecting over 500 signatures, and launching an email campaign to maintain public engagement.

The group secured top-tier legal support by retaining Gowling WLG, whose formal response to the Ministry of the Environment regarding Fidelity's Environmental Compliance Approval has effectively stopped the proposal pending review.

It has consistently challenged the proposal by filing detailed objections with both the Ministry of Environment and Township Council, delivering two formal delegations to Council, and crafting a strategic reply to Fidelity's public comment response that was submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Gowling WLG, and Council.

Demonstrating its commitment to tough legal action, the group initiated a Ministry of the Environment investigation under the Environmental Bill of Rights for possible breaches of the Aggregate Resources Act, another measure that has effectively halted the proposal's forward movement until a thorough review is completed

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

To sustain ongoing efforts, the Cramahe Residents Advocates Association has launched a comprehensive membership drive and fundraising initiative. Community members are encouraged to join for a \$25 fee by signing up online at the 'Take Action' page on their website or at meetings, with benefits including supporting the core objective, having a voice in CRAA planning and membership decisions, and being part of the solution.

For those unable to contribute financially, members can volunteer their time or materials to support the cause.

To date, expenses have exceeded \$20,000 and have been funded entirely by the CRAA board, highlighting the urgent need for broader community support.

Fundraising is facilitated through multiple channels, including a GoFundMe campaign featured on the 'Take Action' page of their website, www.thecraa.ca, e-transfers sent directly to donations@thecraa.ca, or cash donations made to a CRAA board member.