



Facts about the Proposed Grainboys Mill in Goodwood

- An industrial scale mill has been proposed on rural lands just outside the Village of Goodwood.
- Grainboys Holdings Inc. operates a grain processing business called Port Royal Mills in Aurora and it seeks to move its business to Goodwood where it will build a larger mill.
- Uxbridge Town Council will vote on the proposal before the end of January 2019.

Questions to Think About

1. According to the company's reports in its application to the Township of Uxbridge, the floor space and number of silos at its new facility in Goodwood will more than double that of its present Port Royal Mills facility in Aurora. The company claims that it will process the *same* amount of grain, about 10,000 tonnes a year. The company says 10 tractor trailer loads of grain will arrive daily. But if capacity is more than doubled at the Goodwood mill then there is no stopping the company from increasing volumes to 20-25 loads a day.

Are you comfortable with 20-25 tractor trailer trucks passing through Goodwood each day?

2. There are no laws or regulations relating to weed seeds in imported grains and seeds used for food. That's because food grains and seeds are not expected ever to land on soil to germinate and grow. But according to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the risk of introducing weeds via food grains and seeds "should not be ignored". In addition, the CFIA concluded that weed seeds can be "unintentionally spilled in a variety of environments conducive to germination, including areas around mills, bins and farm properties." The CFIA found that over 20% of imported food grains sampled had weed seeds and 7% contained *prohibited noxious weeds*, a class of weeds far worse than dandelions and dog strangler vine.

Are you comfortable that the new mill, located on rural land, will be under no government oversight relating to prohibited noxious weeds, and that there is a real possibility weeds far worse than dog strangler vine will cause economic damage to farm businesses and harm to livestock?

3. At Elgin Pond there is an infestation of the same prohibited noxious weed that could easily arrive in imported grains and take hold on rural lands around the mill. The weed is called dodder (*Cuscuta spp.*)

and it likely came on contaminated shrubs when the area was landscaped some years ago. This highly invasive weed produces millions of seeds that can remain viable in soil for up to 10 years and can spread by water throughout the watershed area of Uxbridge Brook and beyond. In July and August 2018 the previous council was notified of the infestation and of the risks it poses, yet no action was taken.

Are you comfortable that the Township of Uxbridge has failed to address this threat, one that the State of California regards as so serious that municipal and state authorities have been forced to mount a difficult and costly eradication program?

4. While town councilors and employees are protected from lawsuits arising from negligence under the Municipal Act, the municipality itself does not have the same protection. Under the Negligence Act the municipalities can be, and have been, forced to pay most of the damages in lawsuits even when there is blame to share among multiple defendants. Farmers and landowners could suffer significant damages, in the millions from loss of business, cost of weed eradication, and loss of land value due to a prohibited noxious weed infestation that the municipality could have contained or prevented. That the municipality has shown negligence in failing to address the outbreak at Elgin Pond, could lead to lawsuits against the Township of Uxbridge.

Are you comfortable with the legal and financial risk of introducing a new pathway for prohibited noxious weeds, such as dodder, to take hold and spread in the Uxbridge?

Want to Know More?

- Read the report submitted by Conrad Richter to Town Council July 2018.
- Watch a video slideshow of a presentation that was presented to Town Council on January 7, 2019.
- Listen to the noise levels emanating from the company's existing plant in Aurora.

Visit vm.richters.com/grainboys