



## **Municipality of East Ferris**

### **Media Release**

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***July 20, 2018 Environmental Issue – Former St. Theresa School Site – Corbeil, ON***

The Municipality of East Ferris purchased the former St. Theresa School in Corbeil in 2009. Prior to the purchase of the former school, the Municipality had received reports and correspondence regarding past site contamination and remediation efforts undertaken by a consultant on behalf of the School Board in 1999 and 2000. The consultant concluded that remediation had been effective.

A portion of the former school was then demolished in December 2012 to make way for the construction of a new municipal administration building. At that time an old septic tank was discovered on the site which had fuel oil in it. It also appeared that there was fuel oil in the ground surrounding the tank. The Municipality immediately contacted the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECP) to report this and has subsequently reported this issue to the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA) and the Ministry of Transportation (MTO).

The Municipality retained the services of environmental consultants, initially the Paterson Group, and later Knight Piésold Ltd. to investigate the extent of the contamination and to make recommendations to Council.

Since then, the consultants have dug test pits and drilled wells to conduct soils and groundwater testing on the site of the former St. Theresa's School, the East Ferris Memorial Cenotaph and surrounding lands and have discovered petroleum product in the ground. The study area has been expanded to include Hwy 94 lands as well. A well water testing program for residents surrounding the site was also initiated.

The Municipality of East Ferris hosted an Open House on Monday January 16<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Corbeil Park Hall. The purpose of this Open House was to provide information on, and answer questions related to, the well testing program that was conducted during 2016 and which is ongoing for those residences surrounding the former St. Theresa School. Well testing has been ongoing since then and results have

continued to confirm that there are no concerns with the well water in those residences' wells that were tested.

The Municipality's foremost concern has been for the health and well-being of our residents living in close proximity to the site as well as for the potential of the fuel oil to eventually migrate to the La Vase River.

Council approved Knight Piésold's recommendation to undertake Phase I of a remediation program on the East Ferris Memorial Cenotaph property. Phase I, which consists of interception trenches, sumps, a containment barrier and other components, was installed in late 2017 and is currently operational.

On April 27, 2018, the MOECP posted notice of a proposed Director's Order on the Province's Environmental Registry. This notice remained open for public comment until June 11, 2018. The proposed Director's Order would require the Municipality and the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board to jointly submit a remediation plan, carry out monitoring and report periodically to the MOECP. On July 13, 2018, the final version of the Director's Order was posted. The order can be accessed on the Environmental Registry of Ontario's website at <https://ero.ontario.ca/>.

For further information, please contact Jason Trottier, CAO/Treasurer, Municipality of East Ferris – (705) 752-2740.