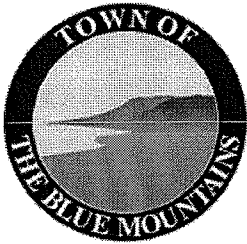


STAFF REPORT:

BUILDING & BY-LAW DEPARTMENT



REPORT TO: Finance & Admin. Committee
MEETING DATE: August 19th, 2008
REPORT NO.: SRB.08.46
SUBJECT: Golden Town Apple Products Noise
By-law Exemption
PREPARED BY: Sharon Long, Admin. Assistant

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report SRB.08.46 for information purposes and provide direction to Staff with respect to Golden Town Apple Products request (Division of a Lassonde Inc.) for an exemption to the Town's Noise By-law.

B. Background

The Town has received complaints with respect to noise originating at the Golden Town Apple Products Plant located at 496648 Grey Road 2 (Addendum "A"). Concerns expressed are principally related to vehicle movements on and about the property and loading and unloading.

By-law Enforcement has been involved in this matter and has advised the property owner/operator of the provisions of the Noise By-law. In particular that the making of noise likely to disturb the inhabitants of the municipality is prohibited between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. In response, Golden Town Apple Products have requested by way of their letter of August 12, 2008 (Addendum "B") an exception to the noise by-law "to continue our operations as normal (1981-2008) in the fall period September to December".

With respect to the development of a new Noise By-law, it is projected that a draft of same will be on the September Finance & Administration Agenda.

C. Budget Impact (cc: Treasury if required)

N/A

D. Attached

- A. Aerial Photo
- B. Letter dated August 12th, 2008 from Golden Town Apple Products.

Prepared by:

Sharon Long
Sharon Long
Administrative Assistant

Respectfully submitted:

David Finbow
David Finbow
Director, Building & By-law

Grey County Web Mapping

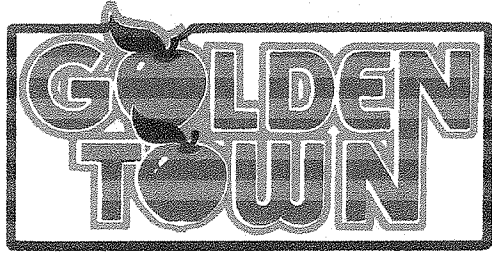
A.



Legend			
Official Plan - Landuse	Official Plan - Constraints	<input type="checkbox"/> City of Owen Sound	County Facilities
Wetlands	Known Abandoned Land Fill Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipality of Grey Highlands	Administration
Inland Lakes & Shoreline	Existing Land Fill Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipality of Meaford	Housing and Long Term Care
Agricultural	Cold Water Stream	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipality of West Grey	Social Services
Hamlet	Cool/Warm Water Stream	<input type="checkbox"/> Town of Hanover	Transportation and Public Safety
Escarpment Recreation Area	Warm Water Stream	<input type="checkbox"/> Town of The Blue Mountains	Sand and Gravel Deposits (AIMP)
Niagara Escarpment Plan Area	Cold Water Lake	<input type="checkbox"/> Township of Chatsworth	Primary
Hazard Lands	<input type="checkbox"/> Cool/Warm Water Lake	<input type="checkbox"/> Township of Georgian Bluffs	Secondary
Special Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Warm Water Lake	<input type="checkbox"/> Township of Southgate	Tertiary
Urban Fringe	Evaluated Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Settlements	Highways
<input type="checkbox"/> Urban	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Policy (Karst)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parcels	Regional Roads
Space Extensive Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Earth ANSI	<input type="checkbox"/> Lots & Concessions	Local Roads
Space Extensive Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Earth Life ANSI	<input type="checkbox"/> Building Footprints	Open Road Allowance
Mineral Resources Extraction	Life ANSI	Blue Highlands Wind Study Area	Unopened Road Allowance
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	Primary Aggregate	Pits & Quarries (MNR)	County Forest Stands
		Deer Wintering Area	Wooded Areas
		County Properties	
		County Forest Trails	

This map is for illustrative purposes only. Do not rely on this map as being a precise indicator of routes, location of features, nor as a guide to navigation. It has not been designated or certified for planning or surveying purposes. This map may contain cartographical errors or omissions.

B.



GOLDEN TOWN APPLE PRODUCTS
DIVISION OF A. LASSONDE INC.



Box 303, Thornbury, Ontario, N0H 2P0
Tel: (519) 599 – 6300, Fax: (519) 599 – 2103
www.goldentownapples.com

August 12, 2008

Town of The Blue Mountains
Mr. David Finbow
Director Building & By-Law
26 Bridge Street East,
Box 310
Thornbury, Ontario
N0H 2P0

RECEIVED
AUG 14 2008
TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS
PER _____

Dear Mr. Finbow,

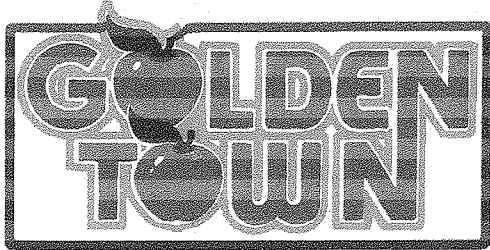
This letter is in response to Roll No.: 11-129-00 Noise By-law No. 2002-9., dated May 13th, 2008, issued by Mr. Wayne DeWitt, Municipal Law Enforcement Officer.

Golden Town Apple Products is a juice apple processing facility located at 496648 Grey Road # 2. We have demonstrated to be loyal and cooperative corporate citizens 1981.

Golden Town is the largest juice apple processor in Ontario. Our capacity is more than 150 million pounds of juice apples annually, servicing 250 plus apple growers throughout the province. Golden Town employs 42 staff year round. Plus an additional 10-12 during our peak season, September to December.

For the past three years we have received complaints from a local resident as it relates to noise and our business operations. The complaints have been numerous in nature. Action taken as part of past complaints;

- Installation of a new lagoon
- Purchased new loader – replaced very old and noisy loader
- Engineered and erected a noise barrier installed above main entrance to minimize condenser noise
- Trucks idling waiting to be loaded - moved from the front and south side of the property to the back and north side of the property
- Engineered and installed new cooling units to face the west at the south end of the building
- No idling signs for trucks



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In March of 2007, we invited the MOE on site during production hours to complete a noise level meter study for the company. The results of that study indicated that Golden Town was well within the Ministries established guidelines.

Golden Town is as a bona fide sector of agriculture, and as such is required to operate in such hours as to maintain the flow of grower's fruit particularly throughout the fall months September through to December.

Our policy for the past 27 years has been to act as model corporate citizens. This practice has not and will not change in the future.

All outside operational activities at Golden Town are given great consideration as it relates to noise. We make every reasonable effort to respect our surroundings during and outside of peak season.

Golden Town Apple Products are requesting an exception to the existing Noise By – Law 2002 – 9, allowing Golden Town to continue our operations as normal (1981-2008) in the fall period September to December and hopefully and respectfully a more tolerant relationship during off season hours in our neighborhood.

It is our opinion, that our facility should be provided consideration under the existing BY-LAW 2002 – 9, (3 a).

I would be more than pleased to meet with Council or a committee of Council to answer any questions.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

We respectfully wait to hear from your office.

Yours truly,

Keith Cummings
General Manager
Golden Town Apple Products

Cc; Mr. Wayne DeWitt
Mr. Steven Keast
Ms. Caroline Lemoine (Corporate Council)