

February 19, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Tatyana Graham, and I am a resident living in Stoney Creek, Ontario. Since April 2023, my neighbourhood has been affected by strong repulsive intermittent odours from the GFL Stoney Creek Industrial Landfill on First Rd. & Green Mountain Rd. The dump is so close to my house that when I walk in the mornings, I reach the bus stop and the landfill at the same time. Just to give you a visual...this is what I'm living close to (300 meters away):





When my family moved into this brand-new house in 2018, the landfill area was empty and inactive. The builders (Empire Communities) lied to us, they said that it will remain closed

and **“inactive”**. Later on, we would find out that many others who moved here at that time were told the same thing. We did not know the history of the landfill, and we were not told that this landfill has been previously owned by several other landfill companies who have been shut down for various legal reasons.

After 5 years of living here, in 2023 we received a letter from GFL (Green for Life) delivered to our front door stating that there would be some activity in the landfill that may cause odours, but that this will not last long. Needless to say, **it lasted LONG**. First it lasted the whole summer...then one year...and now it's been almost 2 years, and we STILL smell strong odours intermittently. Sometimes the smell is so pungent we hold our breaths while walking to our car, wear masks OUTSIDE, feel nauseous, and get headaches.

Since April 2023, our community has been back and forth with GFL: we protested, attend monthly GFL community meetings, and hold our own community meetings regarding this issue. In the spring/summer of 2023 we woke up every morning and went to bed every night inhaling **hydrogen sulfide**. We inhaled the offensive sulfuric odour while walking to bus stops, mailboxes, and our cars; while standing in our backyards and front porches; while hanging out at the park nearby; and while doing just about anything. Many days we could even smell it inside our houses. We had to close our windows and turn off the ventilation feature that pulls in outdoor air so that we could breathe in our houses without feeling sick. We also purchased an air purifier for every level of the house. Our air purifier turns red when it detects impurities in the air, and every time we open the door it turns red. We continuously report the smells to the Ministry of Environment and to GFL directly, but to no avail.

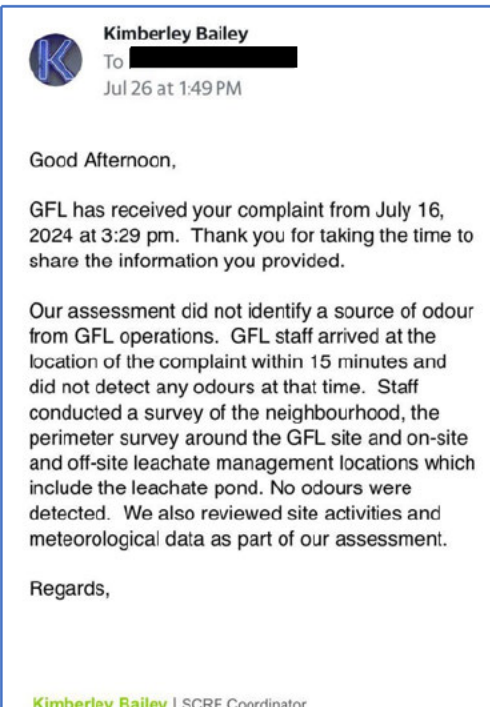
This past summer (2024), the smell has changed. It is a **rotten fish/chemical smell**...it is very likely **ammonia** is in the air. GFL's 2023 annual report would confirm that this is not the

first time unacceptable levels of ammonia have been emitted from the dump:

<https://gflstoneycreek.com/document-library>. Hydrogen sulfide and ammonia are both **toxic gases**. But GFL continues to say that this landfill only accepts “non-toxic waste”. I have said this to GFL representatives repeatedly, but none of them seem to get it: **“Toxic gases can be emitted from a non-toxic waste site and can cause health issues,”** and that’s exactly what is happening. They always respond with: “We only accept non-toxic waste”. I have spoken to some of my neighbours and found out that many people have been experiencing minor health issues (asthma, headaches, vomiting, etc.) and major health issues (long-term illnesses) and believe it is linked to this dump.

When my neighbours and I put in formal complaints regarding these offensive smells, this seems to get us nowhere. We are told by GFL that the smells are not them, and we are told by the Ministry of Environment that our reports are being kept on record. Nothing further has been done to ensure that we residents feel safe and secure living in this neighbourhood. Below are examples of the dismissive responses I have received from GFL:





At this point, we are very frustrated. We bought this house 6 years ago, and after surviving the COVID-19 pandemic here, while others were able to enjoy the nice summer in 2023 chilling in their back/front yards and taking a walk at their local park, we were stuck inside trying not to inhale toxic gas. Ultimately, we agree as a community we would like to see this dump shut down for good this time. We don't want to live near this landfill. Unfortunately, moving out of the neighbourhood is not an option for many of us due to financial limitations and the high housing costs. The problem will go away only if GFL goes away and the landfill shuts down permanently.

The City of Hamilton has a responsibility to protect us residents and ensure we have access to our human rights. Clean air is a human right. As long as GFL is operational and continues to accept waste into the landfill, our human rights are being violated. I am asking the City of Hamilton to investigate and put in effort to mitigate the landfill emissions. Additionally, I

am requesting financial compensation from the City of Hamilton for the residents of my community. We continue to suffer mentally, financially and emotionally; we should not be further burdened by increased property taxes when our properties are not fully usable due to the odours.

Sincerely,

Tatyana Graham