



RAIL YARD IMPACTS ON THE BRETONA AREA

The Project

Cando Contracting Ltd., CN and Imperial Oil are storing 225 petroleum tank cars in their newly-constructed rail yard right next to 2 protected wildlife conservation areas and homes.

Facts

The rail yard is very close to Mill Creek, Bretona Pond and numerous other connected ponds and marshes. Possible contamination of these waterbodies and connected wetlands by petroleum products leaking from 225 stored tank cars is a major concern. There are many species of waterfowl and shorebirds that breed, stage (spring and fall), moult and feed at Bretona Pond, other connected waterbodies, and the surrounding lowlands. All of these waterbirds and many other bird species that breed, feed and stage here are protected under the federal *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.

The additional noise, vibration and visual disturbances of the rail yard negatively affect the adjacent protected wildlife conservation areas, including the many bird and mammal species. The rail yard and associated activities have compromised the natural heritage resources and the historical heritage resources of the Bretona Community.

The massive rail yard property (5.2 acres) is only 68m from one home, 163m from a second home, and impacts many other homes in the Bretona Community. The quality of life of residents living that close to an industrial rail yard has been totally compromised (increased noise, vibration, visual and aesthetic impacts, health impacts of carcinogenic diesel exhaust from idling and slow-moving locomotives, many other rail yard activities).

Property values of adjacent and nearby homes and properties have been significantly reduced.

Health and property value impacts associated with rail yards have been documented elsewhere (Cahill et al. 2007, Donato-Weinstein 2008, Edwards 2009, Lydersen 2010, Natural Resources Defense Council 2010, Oregon Toxics Alliance 2010, Roosevelt 2009).

Nearby homes and properties are subjected to the additional risks of fire associated with idling and slow-moving locomotives, the flammable liquids within the petroleum tank cars and any flammable products (e.g., oil, grease, solvents) that drip and leak onto the ground. There have been several CN-caused fires very near where the new rail yard has been constructed (1991, 1992, 2011).

Significant borrow material was required to fill in the rail yard property because it was quite low. This has affected and altered some drainage patterns in the area. There has been spring run-off and rainfall drainage from the rail yard into one farm dugout, several other private properties, two protected wildlife conservation areas, and into Bretona Pond and Mill Creek. It is just a matter of time before dripping oil, grease and solvents from stored rail cars and any spilled petroleum products from the tank cars contaminate local water systems.