

# Kathryn resident frustrated with constant noise

By: [Jessi Gowan](#) Posted: Monday, Jan 19, 2015 12:13 pm Rocky View Weekly

Despite having a railyard located in nearby Conrich, Canadian National Railway (CN) has been using a site in Kathryn to sort steel 24-hours a day, seven days a week, according to adjacent landowner Mandy Dale.

“They started before Christmas, and when they’d been there for about a week, I went over to ask what was going on,” Dale said. “I spoke with two young guys sitting at a truck waiting for their supervisor to come back, and they told me it would be their last day. I was very happy about that.”

However, Dale said the equipment remained on the site over Christmas, and the crew started working again shortly after the holiday. According to Dale, dump trucks bring loads of steel to the site, where it is dumped onto a conveyor belt and sorted into piles by a large crane. Currently, Dale said the ground is covered by at least a dozen piles eight feet wide and six feet high.

“These big trucks and tractors are driving up our tiny little gravel road (Range Road 273A), chewing it up and kicking up dust and silt everywhere,” she said. “And then, they turn on these big work lights so they can keep going after it gets dark, which is all very destructive to our neighbourhood.”

Adding to Dale’s frustration, she said a block heater powered by a loud diesel engine runs all night long, so the equipment can be started up again in the cold.

“Some nights, the truckers come and park with the loads they are supposed to drop off in the morning, so they run their trucks all night long while they wait to unload,” she said. “It’s literally across the street from my four-year old’s bedroom window.”

Dale said her daughter is frequently woken up by the constant noise, but that a more serious cause for concern is the air pollution created by the engines, generators, and trucks.

“My daughter has asthma, and we moved to the country because we wanted fresh air,” she said. “Now, we have diesel fumes and generators running right across the street from us, 24-hours a day.”

Since the community is completely residential with no commercial or industrial land uses, Dale said she is confused about why this site is being used for loud construction work – especially since there is a CN railyard located in nearby Conrich.

“We were just this quiet little corner of Rocky View (County), and maybe that’s why they came here, because they thought we wouldn’t make much of a fuss and they could just fly under the radar,” she said.

“But I’m the president of our community association, and I don’t go quietly. They picked the wrong lady to mess with.”

Dale said she has been in contact with CN since the noise began, but has yet to receive any answers. According to Dale, she has been told twice that CN representatives would “look into” the situation, but she has yet to hear back. CN did not respond to Rocky View Weekly’s inquiries as of press time.

“I also called (Rocky View County) back in December (2014), and they told me that since CN is federally regulated, it’s their land and (RVC) can’t do anything about it, even if they are violating noise bylaws,” said Dale. “They’re federal, so they’re not subject to the rules and regulations of the municipality.”

RVC was also unavailable for comment, but Dale said Area Councillor Greg Boehlke was investigating the situation on her behalf.

“I just want them to go away,” she said. “I want them to pack up and go back to where they belong, to an industrial area or something. It’s too much, we have no peace and quiet, and I can’t enjoy my country living.”