



NDACT NEWSLETTER

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PROTECT YOUR WATER and FOOD

HIGHLAND HAS FILED ITS MEGA QUARRY APPLICATION

- **Highland Companies has officially filed** a 3,000 page application for their 2,400 acre 200 foot deep open pit limestone mine. The process is legislated and you must know of timelines and deadlines for submissions.
- It is urgent that you view the application at this link.
www.highlandcompanies.ca/index.php/companies/melancthonquarry/
- Letters of objection are critically important. Please watch for emails, newsletters, check out the website and facebook for updates and bullet points of comments and/or wording that can be used in your letters of objection.

NDACT INFORMATION MEETING

Saturday April 2, 2011

Shelburne Legion - 203 William Street, Shelburne

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

review of Highlands application and the process for filing objections

ACTION REQUIRED NOW

- Letters of objection to the proposal are urgently needed-attend the April 2 meeting for information on this process
- Letters **must** be signed and contain your return mailing address and be mailed or delivered to **both** the Ministry of Natural Resources, 2284 Nursery Road, Midhurst Ontario L0L 1X0 AND The Highland Companies, Box 377, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0
- **Letters must be received by both the MNR and Highlands by April 26, 2011. Easter weekend is on April 22- 25 and mail will not move on these days so, to be safe, consider April 21st as the deadline.**
- Join the facebook site Stop the Quarry, watch for updates on that site as well as www.ndact.com and <http://www.citizensalliance.ca/>
- Ensure everyone in your household writes their own letter and encourage your neighbours and friends to write letters as well
- Donate to NDACT to assist with subject matter expert costs
- File an objection on the EBR at this link regarding the legislative timing: www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTEyNTY2&statusId=MTY4ODI5&language=en Suggested wording: ***There are more than 3,000 pages of reports and studies on this proposal to review with a 45 day time limit. The public, agencies, Ministries and approval authorities could not realistically do their due diligence and provide comments/objections within these time frames. At minimum, the time frame for comments must be extended to at least 6 months.***

SUMMARY OF HIGHLANDS PROPOSAL – according to their material and at full operational capacity

- 2,400 acre 200 foot below the water table open pit limestone mine in stages
- 7,200 plus trucks a day-3,600 in and 3,600 out (300 trucks per HOUR) but has no analysis on the greenhouse gas emissions, impact on tourism corridors, school bus routes or traffic safety
- large rail operation involving 16 hours of crossing time per day at every crossing
- DAILY water usage of 600 million litres which equates to the same amount of water that 25% of the entire population of Ontario uses DAILY
- 16 pumps operating 24/7 – no analysis on cost to run the pumps after the mine is exhausted and has been “rehabilitated to agriculture”
- Standing water from the quarry to be re-injected to wells into our aquifer
- 365 days a year blasting except on stat holidays-no analysis of the potential impact of dust on surrounding crops, existing business and farming operations with livestock and animals
- promise of 400 jobs, but not all are local – no analysis of the loss of existing jobs
- “plans” show rehabilitation, but the Minister of Natural Resources advised the Mayor and Deputy of the Township of Melancthon in February 2011: “*...this will not be going back to agriculture, but maybe you could get a nice golf course*”.

AGENCIES/MINISTRIES/NDACT OUTREACH

- Council of Canadians www.canadians.org/campaignblog/?p=6743
- Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Environment www.citizensalliance.ca/
- News bulletin to all NVCA & GRCA municipalities
www.ndact.com/NDACT/HIGHLANDS_Applications.html
- Sylvia Jones MPP
www.citizensalliance.ca/PDFS/March%20-%20Township%20of%20Melancthon%20Statement.pdf
- Delegations to Collingwood, Adjala-Tosorontio, Caledon, Southgate and Mapleton
- March 15, 2011 news release
www.citizensalliance.ca/PDFS/Opposition%20Mounting%20to%20Mammoth%20Quarry.pdf
- April 2, 2011 NDACT public meeting Shelburne Legion 203 William St. Shelburne 10 am
- Trent University-March 16, 2011 info session
- Environmental Commissioner, April 2010
- Environmental Defence (formerly Sierra Club)
- Lawyer; hydrogeologist; planner; subject matter experts retained
- All local councils
- All Councils in the Grand River and Nottawasaga Conservation Authority
- Media contact through news releases, radio and newspaper interviews
- Ministry of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Municipal Affairs, Culture, Transportation, Niagara Escarpment Commission, Grand River & Nottawasaga Conservation Authorities
- Eco-Justice