



NDACT NEWSLETTER

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Thank you to every single person who attended NDACT's information meeting on April 2, 2011 at the Shelburne Legion.

The turnout was outstanding and the financial donations were appreciated.

Check the rest of the newsletter for details of upcoming meetings and our annual golf tournament.

Thanks again.

PROTECT YOUR WATER and FOOD CALL TO ACTION

Highlands Public Meeting
April 12, 2011
Hornings Mills Hall
14 Mill St, Hornings Mills
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

This is the legislated meeting that Highlands must hold with respect to their application under the Aggregate Resources Act.

It is crucial that you attend.

Please bring a chair, dress for the weather and expect delays to access the meeting.

Strategy for attending the meeting:

- Ensure you write down the questions you want to ask in advance and write down the answers to your questions;
- Push for clear and direct answers to your questions, if you ask a question and do not get a firm clear answer, rephrase your question and persist until you get a clear, definitive answer to your question;
- Ask for firm numbers and commitments from Highlands;
- Ensure there are others with you when you go through the different kiosks, so everyone is hearing the same answers provided to the questions;
- Ask for a business card from everyone with whom you speak;
- YOU do not have to give them your name nor are you under any obligation to "sign in" to the meeting;
- You may opt to tape record your questions and answers-it is a public building and a public meeting-if they want you to stop taping and filming, ask them politely but firmly why;
- Crowd control is extremely important, be patient and polite and expect delays-there may be too many people to access the facility;
- There will be musicians, mascots, face painting, balloons, etc.
- See you in Hornings Mills on April 12, 2011.

Highland Companies has officially filed a 3,100 page application for their 2,300 acre up to 200 foot below the water table open pit limestone mine. The process for objecting is very legislated, there are clear time frames which must be followed in order to have your objection count. **Letters of objection are critical**

Send the same letter to both addresses above with an original signature-anyone in your household, over the age of 16 can object-all letters will form part of the public record and be public information

Letters **must** be signed and **must also** contain your return mailing address including fire number, box and/or RR#

Your letter must be sent to BOTH: 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 19th as the deadline.

You do not have to be a resident of Melancthon to object. Anyone, wherever you reside, can object

SUGGESTED WORDING FOR YOUR LETTERS OF OBJECTION

NOTE: PLEASE CHOOSE THOSE THAT IMPACT YOU-YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO READ THE APPLICATION FOR OTHER ISSUES THAT MAY ALSO IMPACT YOU-THESE COMMENTS ARE SUGGESTIONS ONLY

It is the responsibility of the Proponent to demonstrate that there are no unacceptable impacts as a result of their proposed operations

The planning rationale that ranks aggregate as a superior land use by depending on an industry-dominated policy paper exercise devalues the interests of Ontarians concerned about the protection of scarce prime agricultural and water resources as well as the environment.

The daily management of 600 million litres of groundwater is unproven in such a location and there is little analysis or information provided regarding water quality impacts locally or in downstream communities. This concern is magnified when considering that standing water from the quarry is to be re-injected to new wells in our aquifer.

The proponent intends to operate 16 pumps seven days per week, 24 hours per day, forever, to 'manage' the water in the area yet provides no analysis or feasibility studies associated with their operation once the mine is to be rehabilitated or abandoned. No analysis has been provided nor any costs secured to manage this system and run these pumps in perpetuity once the limestone has been removed and sold.

Plans suggest an eventual return to "suitable agricultural" uses at the bottom of the 200 foot hole with no definition of what is "suitable". According to current government legislation, there is NO OBLIGATION to rehabilitate the site because it is below the water table.

The proponent has not demonstrated that there are no reasonable alternative locations which avoid *prime agricultural areas*; nor has it demonstrated that there are no reasonable alternative locations in *prime agricultural areas* with lower priority agricultural lands as provided for in the Provincial Policy Statement. The proposed license area comprises primarily Class 1 agricultural soils.

The submission contemplates 7,200 large trucks coming and going from the open pit mine every day – 3,600 in and 3,600 out. But the analysis provided seemingly ignores the location of schools, issues of traffic safety, traffic congestion and impacts on tourist operations and other local businesses. Further, this level of additional heavy aggregate trucks on Dufferin Road 124 is a public safety concern because of snowstorms and drifting snow in winter and cottagers going to Creemore and the Collingwood area in the summer.

The submission includes operations 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, **with blasting every day of the year**— except on statutory holidays. There is no analysis of the potential impact on surrounding crops, livestock and local residents.

The submission includes a promise of some 400 jobs, but there is no analysis suggesting how many are local jobs or what impacts this operation will have on existing employment due to traffic-related issues and the loss of farming jobs.

The enormity of the largest quarry application ever submitted in Ontario demands unprecedented review and consultation with clear proof and broad agreement about how to mitigate unacceptable impacts. The absence of important analyses in key areas clearly indicates a failure to demonstrate sufficient concern about the consequences associated with a proposal for Canada's largest quarry.

I/We will define my/our objection further in the future.

IMPORTANT DATES

April 12, 2011

Highland Companies Public Meeting
7:00 – 9:00 pm 14 Mill Street, Hornings Mills,
ON
Legislated open house - NOTE: please bring
chairs, posters, bagpipes, musical instruments,
pets, children, friends and neighbours. There is
limited space and the building is not accessible.
There will be a crowd and you may have to wait.

April 14, 2011

County of Dufferin Council meeting
7:00 pm 51 Zina Street Orangeville
County Council vote on railway sale to Highland
Companies

April 15, 2011

Ecoforum, Trinity United Church
7:00 pm at 200 Owen Sound Street, Shelburne,
ON
“What does the Highland Mine Mean to You?
Potential environmental impacts”

April 18, 2011

Last date for submitting letters of objection to
Highland's Aggregate license through the mail;
after which or in the case of a mail strike, you
can drop the letters off at the Township of
Melancthon office (8:30 – 4:30) 157101 Highway
10, Melancthon, ON in sealed envelopes
addressed to BOTH the proponent and MNR.
NDACT will arrange for pickup and delivery on
or before April 26

April 22-26

First Nations Walk from Queen's Park to
Dufferin County Road 124-please watch the
media, facebook and www.ndact.com for details
as to how to participate

April 26, 2011

Last date by which objections to the MNR and
Highlands for an aggregate resources license
can be **received**.

HOW CAN YOU HELP

- Attend meetings
- Elevate the issue with friends, neighbours,
media, colleagues
- Read Highland Companies application:
<http://www.highlandcompanies.ca/index.php/companies/melancthonquarry/>
- Submit your letter of objection (see pg 2)
- Write your MPP
http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/members_current.do?locale=en
- Attend Council meetings (google your
municipality for date and times of
meetings)
- Join the First Nations Walk from Queen's
Park to Dufferin County Road 124
- Donate to NDACT Box 15, Honeywood,
ON L0N 1H0
- Follow <http://www.ndact.com/NDACT/Welcome.html>
- Join the facebook site Stop the Quarry
and follow events
- Volunteer-email info@ndact.com
- Write letters to the editor and other media
- Make this a federal election issue on
national water and food policy-attend all
candidate's debates and push for
answers and firm commitments

MEDIA LINKS

<http://www.thestar.com/news/ontario/article/734969--limestone-quarry-threatens-prime-farm-land>
<http://www.betterfarming.com/online-news/megaquarry-opposition-grows-4021>
<http://www.inthehills.ca/back/melancthon/>
http://torontoist.com/2009/11/forget_paving_paradise_lets_just_dig_a_giant_hole_in_it.php
<http://www.thestar.com/article/662520>