



NDACT NEWSLETTER

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Food and Water First

Early comments regarding the ARA Review,

We are all fired up and stronger now than we were at the outset of this discussion. Please stay engaged and let your views be known. After all, it was your involvement that drove the Highland Companies' decision to withdraw its Mega Quarry application and sell its land. You will be instrumental once more in driving proper policy change.

The Mega Quarry application was made because Baupost (Highland) determined that Ontario has the weakest regulatory environment governing resource extraction in Canada, enabling anyone to pillage the very resources Ontario needs to drive parts of its own economy. This issue of reviewing the antiquated ARA was never about aggregate. It was always about better planning.

In order to function properly and to focus its energies on its priorities, aggregate producers require a **social license**, legislation and policy that govern their activities around resource extraction in Ontario. OSSGA had a huge lapse in judgment. Instead of helping to create a document that would lessen rural strife and being a responsible corporate partner, OSSGA members will continue to be challenged by communities in which they want to do business and will have to defend their businesses. Instead of doing better and voluntarily recognizing that Prime Farmland and Source Water Regions should be off limits, OSSGA has clearly belittled the efforts of thousands of Ontarians who have so reasonably engaged in this policy development process. The public at large will continue to withhold that social license until there is modernized legislation.

Nothing in the ARA review document would prevent another Mega Quarry application tomorrow, destroying forever thousands of acres of our most productive farmland and putting the control of unbelievably vast amounts of Ontario's fresh water under foreign control!!!

The new legislation has to recognize Prime Farmland as a strategic provincial resource.
The new legislation has to protect Source Water Regions by eliminating industrial extraction in those regions.

As an engaged public, both urban and rural, we have had all kinds of assurances from MPPs that the thousands of people have been heard. Now is the time for those MPPs to act, not just speak.

Legislation and policy should streamline business and lessen strife for all citizens of Ontario: these recommendations do neither. Consider the Vice Chair, Donna Cansfield, along with Liz Sandals, had asked for the ARA review in the first place. They cannot condone this outcome. Neither can our own MPP Sylvia Jones, who asked such good questions as a member of the ARA Review committee and seemed so engaged in the process!!

I see huge leadership potential here for those parliamentarians who make a point of ensuring these clauses are added in the new legislation, starting with our Agriculture Minister and, especially, the Minister of MNR, David Oraziotti, who chaired the review meetings. He has firsthand knowledge of the proper, solutions-oriented, public engagement that will not cost government a single penny to enact.

CARL COSACK, Chair of the North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce

CALL TO ACTION

Below is a link to the **NDACT website** with a **template letter**. The link also contains the e-mail addresses of the many **MPPs who sat on the Standing Committee on General Government**. Please add your own thoughts or experiences to the letter.

**It's never been more important to speak up
to protect our farmland and water!**

<http://www.ndact.com/index.php/call-to-action/call-to-action-email-letter-writing/867-all-to-action-ara-committee-ignored-recommendations>

We look forward to hearing the MPPs' responses. Keep in touch. Let us know what you hear!

You can read the entire report click here:

<http://www.ndact.com/index.php/call-to-action/call-to-action-email-letter-writing/867-all-to-action-ara-committee-ignored-recommendations>

You're invited to watch the premiere of the new **Food & Water First** videos!

Just click on the links below.

They're just over one minute in length and feature some familiar faces from the fields to the big screen.

Thanks to **Jason Van Bruggen** for producing these lovely and informative videos. Please share these with family and friends.

And thanks to **Carl, Dave, Brent, Michael** and **Rachel McAdams** for defending the land that feeds us!

People for Food & Water:
<http://vimeo.com/77280156>

Why Food & Water Must Come First:
<http://vimeo.com/77293457>

TOUR THE ROOF OF ONTARIO

- ✓ NDACT has produced a downloadable GSP tour of Melancthon and Mulmur, what is known as the Roof of Ontario.
- ✓ Load up the car, the family, the dog, your picnic lunch, snow shoes, fishing poles- anything in season- and take the tour!!
- ✓ GPS co-ordinates are provided, as well as old style directions so you can do the tour without a GPS.
- ✓ Download the scavenger hunt for more fun!!!
- ✓ Even if you have lived here forever, we promise you will see something new.
- ✓ Do it on your own time, your own dime and in the comfort of your own vehicle ;)

<http://www.ndact.com/index.php/events/805-gps-tour>

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is with much excitement that I look back on the late summer and fall. Our nonpartisan campaign to protect Prime Farmland and Source Water regions continues to pick up support, both from individuals as well as communities and businesses. Our partners page reflects the mix, all driven by the simple truth that if you do not put legislative and policy protection on these strategic resources now, we are robbing our children of life sustaining choices. And since this does not cost taxpayers a single cent to do, there are only winners in this decision.

Now, allow me a radical thought. If in 50 years society decides that it no longer needs farmland but can grow all the food in a petri dish, good on them, I will be long dead, they can pave it all over and do with it as they wish. At least they can make that choice then.

If however, we do not protect it now but let its destruction continue on the accelerate path that it is on, and 50 years from now our relatives do need this special soil to grow food, how glad would they be that our politicians made such visionary decisions way back in 2013/14?

As Chair I get phone calls and emails from across the province and there is one startling observation that goes with all the conversations. It is rural Ontario that continuously fights to represent the importance of the very basis that sustains this provinces largest economic driver, the Agri-food sector, be it is Prime farmland or/and its water.

It would seem, to naïve person like myself, that it should be a proponent, a proponent who wishes to rezone prime ag lands or disturb our water resources, that should prove to society why his/her idea is better, both economically and environmentally, then the status quo!! A proponent should show that the economic benefit of the proposal weighs heavier in favour for society at large than growing food in perpetuity, or at the very least measure the economic impact from the proposal against multi generation benefits of growing food for an ever increasing society, both local as well as global. For me the choice appears very clear.

So this is where we will need your help.

Please, stay attuned with the www.NDACT.com and www.foodandwaterfirst.com websites, and when asked please engage in our "Calls for Action". Every email and message sent to decision-makers count, you have proven it in the past, one more round to go. Come election time we will be well coordinated and ask simple questions at many all candidates meetings in many ridings. If there ever was an issue where your vote counted, this will be the issue of this decade. In the end, it will depend on everyone's voice, and vote, on how this final chapter of the Mega Quarry battle will be written.

Carl Cosack



NDACT will be making Food and Water First delegations to Councils in Grey, Simcoe and Dufferin over the next few weeks. Please come out and join them to support the cause and hear the Food and Water First delegation!!

- Nov 13 @ 6.30 Alliston Lions Club 60 Boyne Street, Alliston ON
- Nov 14 @ 7 pm Dufferin County 51 Zina Street, Orangeville ON
- Nov 19 @ 7 pm Bradford West Gwillimbury 100 Dissette Street, Bradford, ON
- Dec 9 @ 3 pm Meaford Council 21 Trowbridge Street W, Meaford, ON

ANOTHER MAJOR AWARD FOR NDACT!!

NDACT and its supporters have won the
"Best Activist Campaign of the Year"

There's no red carpet. No golden statuette.

Just plenty of congratulations to go around after Toronto's NOW magazine picked the Stop the Mega Quarry movement as the Best Activist Campaign of the past year! (***Cue the applause***) Thanks to all of you who made this incredible victory possible!

NOW says the grassroots campaign demonstrated that "protests can be jubilant and very digestible...and that determination and positivity are our best weapons." We couldn't agree more.

<http://nowtoronto.com/fbApps/bestof/winners.cfm?category=159>

We note that Premier Kathleen Wynne was chosen as Best MPP. We jubilantly call on her government to put Food & Water First!

**Welcome & thanks to our newest
Food and Water First Supporters**

The Town of Shelburne

Agriculture's economic footprint in numbers

- **164,400** – number of Ontario jobs supported through economic activity generated by the farming sector (value of the wages and salaries tied to those jobs = \$7 billion)
- **\$3.4 billion** – taxes collected by provincial and federal governments as a result of economic activity generated by farm sector output
- **70%** - percentage of Ontario's farm production bought by Ontario food processors
- **\$33 billion** – value of the Ontario food processing sector
- **\$1.4 billion** – estimated decrease in Ontario's GDP as a result of the projected \$500 million farm income loss in 2010
- **\$450 million** – tax revenues lost to government due to long term impacts of a \$500 million farm income loss in 2010]
- **13%** - value of rural economy to Ontario's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- **15%** - percentage of the Ontario population that lives in rural areas

The link below provides access to aggregate operation information, such as, site location, licensee or permittee name, site size, operation type (pit or quarry) and maximum annual tonnage limit, etc.

http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Aggregates/1ColumnSubPage/STDPROD_104633.html