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THE BRUCE TRAIL
CONSERVANCY

August 23, 2011

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier, Province of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

We wish to comment on the mega-quarry that is proposed in Melancthon Township near Shelburne, which is a topic of great concern to members and landowners within the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

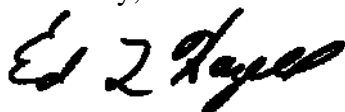
The Niagara Escarpment is one of 15 UNESCO World Biosphere Reserves in Canada, prized for its ecological integrity and scenic beauty within the landscape of Southern Ontario. The world famous Bruce Trail runs 895 km along the Escarpment from Niagara to Tobermory. The Trail's existence is an inspiring example of collaboration among more than 1,000 private landowners who allow our Trail to cross their land, BTC volunteers who build and maintain the Trail, conservation groups such as ourselves who acquire and steward land on the Escarpment, Federal and Provincial government agencies responsible for protection of natural spaces, and the hundreds of thousands of visitors who are able to enjoy the Niagara Escarpment by accessing the Bruce Trail each year.

The proposed mega-quarry is immediately adjacent to lands within the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area, which contain the Bruce Trail. In the course of our work in establishing and maintaining the Bruce Trail, our volunteers maintain close contact with landowners who allow passage of the Bruce Trail across their land. Many of these landowners have expressed great concern over the quarry application and the impact it will have on their land, the habitat in their area, and on the Bruce Trail. Impacts may include changes to the water table, increased sedimentation in the streams, disruption of wildlife due to noise from blasting, increased dust which will impact wildlife, plantlife, the public and local residents, and increased truck traffic which will make access to the area more dangerous for residents and visitors. We share our landowners' concerns about impacts from the quarry on the groundwater, wildlife along the Escarpment, and the enjoyment of the many hundreds of thousands of people who hike the Bruce Trail each year.

We also note the concerns expressed by the Ministry of the Environment on April 26, 2011 and their request for additional information, particularly on impacts to the water table. We echo these concerns, and the need for more information on how the quarry will impact the sensitive land and watercourses along the Niagara Escarpment. Protection of surface and groundwater resources are paramount.

To that end we firmly endorse the Township of Melancthon's request to the Ministry of the Environment that a full Environmental Assessment be conducted on the impacts from the quarrying operation, not only in the immediate vicinity of the quarry but on Niagara Escarpment watercourses and wildlife. In addition to addressing ecological impacts – with emphasis on the surface and groundwater resources – the assessment must address all social and economic impacts. These include impacts on the enjoyment of public open space in the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area, which contain the existing and optimum routes of the Bruce Trail. A full Environmental Assessment is needed to sufficiently demonstrate that the proposed quarry will not have serious detrimental effects on the Niagara Escarpment environment, and in particular the surface and groundwater resources, nor on the Escarpment's landowners, residents and visitors.

Sincerely,



Ed L. Hazell, CMA, FCMA
President,
The Bruce Trail Conservancy

c.c. Sylvia Jones, MPP, Dufferin-Caledon
John Wilkinson, Ontario Minister of the Environment
Linda Jeffrey, Ontario Minister of Natural Resources
Bill Hill, Mayor, Town of Melancthon
Wayne Wilson, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Tony Hopkins, President, Dufferin Hi-Land Bruce Trail Club