

April 22, 2011

Ministry of Natural Resources  
Midhurst District Office  
2284 Nursery Road  
Midhurst, ON L0L 1X0

- and to -

Highland Companies  
P.O. Box 377  
Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0

- and to -

Highlands Companies  
477476 3<sup>rd</sup> Line  
RR# 2 Shelburne, ON L0N 1S6

- and to -

Environmental Commissioner of Ontario  
1075 Bay Street, Suite 605  
Toronto, ON M5S 2B1

**Proposed Quarry in Melancthon Township**  
**EBR Registration No. 011-2864**  
**Application by 3191574 Nova Scotia Company, the Highland Companies**

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly oppose the application for approval to develop this quarry.

About 146 years ago, following the American Civil War, Carpet Baggers began the business of taking advantage of their defeated southern neighbours, removing everything of value they could lay their hands on and picking clean whatever remained following that terrible event.

It now appears that a 21<sup>st</sup> century revival of that phenomenon has come north to take advantage of those who live in this green and pleasant corner of Ontario. The rural farmers of Dufferin County, who have worked the fertile soils of this county for many years, are now seen by the Yankee invaders as yokels who have fallen off the turnip truck, ripe for the picking.

The Highland Group arrived in Ontario on the pretext that they would be assembling properties in order to build a mega potato growing operation. Farmers, now at retirement age, leapt at the generous offers for their farms not questioning how growing potatoes on a mega scale could generate sufficient return on investment (the prices paid for their properties) to produce a profit.

They and the community of Melancthon were soon to learn that the truth; greater profits lay elsewhere; in the limestone beneath that fertile soil.

9. The changes to the water flow to the Grand and Nottawasaga rivers will destroy the trout species that occupy and breed in those waters.
10. Contaminated water will ensure the demise of the Great Lakes Sturgeon whose breeding areas are in the Nottawasaga.
11. In other locations, where similar operations have been permitted, the water has turned black and sulphur has made the water undrinkable.
12. Is it possible that the pumping system will be overwhelmed by the volume of water inflowing the excavation?

This Yankee proposal demands an environmental study and a major extension to the time allotted for reading and assessing the 3,162 pages of application documentation.

Those who are charge with the task of approving or disapproving this project must look beyond the dollar value that might accrue to Ontario and keep in mind that most of the profits will go to the USA and the stock holders leaving the taxpayer to clean up the destruction that will remain.

Yours truly



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