

Attention: Craig Laing

Ministry of Natural Resources

c.c. Ministry of Environment

2284 Nursery Rd.
Midhurst, Ontario
L0L 1X0

c.c. Highland Companies

Re: Melancthon Quarry Highlands Company

The destroying of water resources and prime agricultural land is completely unacceptable. What are you thinking? Therefore, I totally object that the Ministry of Natural Resources would even consider giving The Highlands Co. the opportunity to make a huge quarry in Melancthon Township.

TRANSPORTATION;

Just because there are no schools in Melancthon Township, we still have lots of children MY GRANDCHILDREN going to school in nearby towns en route of Highway #124. There are childrens lives you are taking into consideration. With 7200 large truck travelling each day where is the safety? What are you thinking of? This IS unacceptable. What about the congestion and maintenance of these roads being used. The township will be receiving very little in return to maintain these roads. What are the results of blasting 24\7? The NOISE, the DUST. What effect will this have on our health?

WATER;

Not enough information regarding the impact on the water level has been given. The contamination of the water is a major concern . What about the crops, livestock and wildlife and birds. With all the cutting of trees and bushlots the birds are disappearing. Nobody can survive without water. Our livelihood is depended on water for our farming business.

LAND;

Melancthon township has some of the best soil in Ontario maybe even in Canada known as the Honeywood silt loam. It supplies 25 lbs. of potatoes for each 6 million GTA resident. This area stores more potatoes than any other location in Ontario so people can have fresh local produce most of the year. It is impossible to rehabilitate this huge hole back into agriculture. Just another lie from them. None of the investors live in this area so they don't care about the noise and dust and the ugliest of looking at a great massive hole. The real estate market is declining in our area because who would want to move into this mess. Why can't they dig somewhere else where the land isn't PRIME AGRICULTURAL. This is our family livelihood and has been a wonderful source of living for FIVE generations.

EMPLOYMENT;

They say , they are promising 465 new jobs locally, what about all the jobs lost on the other farms that have been sold to them and the likes of us that will not likely be able to grow crops for the dust and lack of water? It likely equals out except for the truck drivers which will be off shore people anyway.

WRONG

I am concerned as a parent and grandparent to the impact on our and their lives in this community. Ourselves and ancestors for Five Generations have had a healthy and prosperous living here. I hope you will review this application with an open mind to reconsider all the negative things. Where do you expect to get your food and water from, if you destroy this land for MONEY. **THE WRONGS OUTWAY THE RIGHTS. We will be losing our WATER AND FOOD. Please consider the future of our children and grandchildren so they can have a healthy and safe life.**

As a taxpayer and concerned citizen of Melancthon Township, I strongly oppose this project , which is unacceptable in its excessive use of water resources. This farmland is unique to feed our people and represent a trust we must honor.

Carol Rutledge
705510 County Road #21,
R.R.#2,
Shelburne, Ontario
L0N 1S6

Dale Rutledge
705510 County Road #21
R.R.#2
Shelburne, Ontario
L0N 1S6
April 18,2011

Mr. Craig Laing
Ministry of Natural Resources
2284 Nursery Road
Midhurst, Ontario
L0L 1X0

C.C.
The Highlands Companies
Box 377
Shelburne, Ontario
L0N 1S0

Cc: Ministry of Environment

RE; MEGA OPEN PIT QUARRY IN MELANCTHON TOWNSHIP

Who is going to fix ground water flow?

God Mother Nature or ice age whatever you believe in has been doing a fine job for ions.
Anyone who thinks they can disturb this water and soil without serious consequences is dillustional.

Our Farm since the 1880's has employed Five generations.The sixth generation is in jeopardy because
A Boston Hedge Fund that has found a limestone deposit that is worth millions of dollars to their
United States investors.

What expert can say and back it up financially that water will not run into their pit faster than they
say? All experts so far are in the employment of The Highland Companies. Obviously the Highland
expert consultants are paid to give opinions that support the business venture Highland hopes to
develop.

Why do the people farming around this proposed pit have to prove themselves innocent and correct
because Highland and their paid experts say these things won't happen?

Who is to guarantee dust of this mega pit won't change the P.H. in our soil which would be another
disaster?

Prove to us that you have done all the water soil management tests somewhere in the world.

Prove to us where all this unlimited tonnage of rock is going to go?

Prove to us that this natural resource is not to be plundered by an American Hedge Fund?

Prove to us who is going to run pumps (at a 2011 cost of 6 million per year) after all this limestone has been given away?

Prove to us that you say how good this was for our community which Highland is not and never has been a part of?

The people that are left are having a very serious problem with this.

Prove to us how traffic is not going to affect our present way of Life? We won't be travelling to our nearby towns to do our banking and shopping . We will be forced to go north. Our grandchildren would like to know this.

Prove to us that the world needs limestone more that **FOOD AND WATER.**

Prove to us beyond any doubt that our precious water will **NOT BE AFFECTED?**

Please give us specific answers to the issues and questions we raise. It is not good enough to have High paid consultants give speculative opinions that do not address our concerns.

I have supported and worked with Garry Hunter and Associates and agree with contents of his Objections. Garry Hunter's work will be the basis of my future objections.

Yours truly,

Dale Rutledge

**D&C Rutledge Ltd.
#705510 Cty Rd. #21,
R.R.#2,
Shelburne, Ontario
L0N 1S6**

April 14,2011

Mr. Craig Laing
Aggregate Resources Officer
Midhurst District
Ministry of Natural Resources
2284 Nursery Road
Midhurst, Ontario L0L 1X0

RE: Melancthon Mega Quarry: Applicant 3191574 Nova Scotia Company
Issuance of a Class A licence to remove more than 20,000 tonnes of aggregate annually from a pit
or a quarry – ARAs.7(2)(a)
EBR Registry Number: 011-2864,MNR INST 19/11 Comment Period Mar 11 to Apr 26, 2011

Dear Mr. Laing:

1. **SOILS**

How can our special soils ever be rehabilitated? Highland answers are unsatisfactory. Our topsoil and subsoil is approximately 36” thick. Mixing it together, piling it up in berms will render it sterile. Shale rock at bottom of quarry will have no drainage capabilities. Water seems to be the only thing we see in abandoned quarries below water level. Aggregate Act says if water is in pit rehabilitation does not have to occur.

2. **WATER**

Who will fix problems when it goes wrong? Hydrology is not an exact science. Underground streams cannot all be checked by drilling test holes. Well drillers know water can be missed by a few feet. The original well drilled on our 1883 farm was 198’ deep with very little water. The new well drilled in 1960 was 30 feet to the east to 128’ depth had 14 gallons per minute.

Sinkholes caused by streams eroding limestone occur on all our farms. Latest one in 2009 was 2 m by 2m by 1.5 m. Our shallow well which supplies our packing plant at 33’ static level has very little drawdown capability. Top of well to pump inlet is 40’7”.

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Who can guarantee our water will not exit our limestone at an accelerated rate and allow water that has sustained our crops forever to be negatively affected? Once the quarry hole is dug it can never be put back the way it was. The management of pumping water is untested in this size and depth of quarry. Pumping of quarry floor water exposed to air pollution, bird crap and a lime dust into injection wells is totally unacceptable. Dirt in water that was pristine can never be filtered to original state.

Who can guarantee the headwater of Grand River will not run into the Nottawasaga River if the Company goes out of business and disappears?

Who can guarantee the wetlands of Melancthon will not flow into the quarry?

3. **DUST**

Who will compensate us for our soils that have become so alkaline from lime dust that we cannot grow our crops? Air pollution, lime dust will create less photosynthesis in plants to cause poor yields. Potatoes will be unsalable due to scab. This is a known fact.

4. **FARM OPERATIONS**

Our farms are 25 kilometers apart. We use County Road #124 and 4th line Melancthon to move our equipment. We haul at least 500 loads of farm produce from April 15th to December 15th from our south eastern and south western farming operation.

Our equipment is 18feet to 26 feet wide travelling at 10 kilometers to 40 kilometers per hour. Extra 300 truck per hour will expose us to major time delays and huge traffic jams plus many accidents. What about the impact of greenhouse gas emissions on our climate? Our entire environment will suffer from the thousands of daily trucks. Our farm liability and operation insurance premiums if we can buy it, will totally affect our farms livelihood.

What expertise do the Highland Companies have in operating quarries? We would like to see their management structure and business plan to run such a quarry , or does Highland have fixed plans to sell the quarry, if approved, to some operator – possibly foreign ? We deserve a clear answer.

We reserve the right to amend this letter.

5. **IMPACT ON BUSINESS**

Our family farm since 1883 has sustained 5 generation. Loss of crops will put us out of business. Real Estate at present has dropped 25-30% and is expected another 25-30% when quarry is approved. Real estate depreciation affects our ability to finance our ongoing operation.

All local people, business and 2 million people in watersheds should be protected by a **bond backed up by BAUPOST ASSETS.**

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6. I have supported and worked with Garry Hunter & Associates and agree with contents of his objections. Garry Hunter's work will be the basis of my future objections.

7 **HIGHLAND/BAUPOST**

Clear cutting and slashing of wood lots, removal of key erosion preventing shelter belts and fence bottoms, creation of open 400 acre fields, demolition of heritage farmsteads and disposal of debris in the bush. Farmers that borrow their land from their children do not do this.

What is to be gained? Recycle of aggregates and existing pits will sustain Ontario for years. Townships, County and Ontario Government gain very little. Do we really need to destroy our land, Our water for monetary gain of a Boston Hedge Fund?

How many more viable communities will be destroyed if we allow these hedge funds to do so.

**MONEY AND LIMESTONE ARE HARD TO EAT. "WE CAN LIVE WITHOUT AGGREGATES,
BUT WE CAN NOT LIVE WITHOUT WATER AND CROPS TO SUSTAIN US"**

Yours truly.

Dale Rutledge
CEO D&C Rutledge Ltd

Cc: Ministry of Environment

Cc: Highland Companies