



NDACT NEWSLETTER

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NDACT Website

www.ndact.com

Visit our website for top media stories and up to date news about the fight against the mega quarry. Become a member today and help us protect our land, food, water, wildlife and clean air!

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2011 A Year To Remember!

Message from The Chair

As people who are passionately concerned for our clean air, safe local food and the abundance of fresh water, 2011 has been really good to us.

Since water connects us all, we have gotten to know many more neighbours, made new friends and reconnected to old ones. This concern for the very essential of life has our Youth and our Elders working together.

And the really interesting part is, we are not working for our personal benefit, but volunteering great amounts of energy, knowledge, talents, time and money for the benefit of our greater community.

Who will ever forget FOODSTOCK, the culmination of our collective selfless efforts. Foodstock raised, after Canadian Chef's Congress expenses and deductions, \$145,000 for the anti-quarry fight.

We will stop this proposal and participate in changing policy so that other communities do not have to fight a battle such as ours. We have support of Ottawa and Queens' Park, not because we are anything special, but because the facts surrounding this application are just so bad, on every level. In the end, the only real benefactors are the shareholders of the Boston based Baupost Hedge Fund who are financing this insane project.

This responsibility to protect what we as a people, hold dear, is clearly ours. If we stay engaged and clearly focused on our goal, we will succeed in protecting our water and food producing prime farmland.

In the spirit of this special time, with friends family and all the blessings that we enjoy I would like to thank you all for your giving nature and your big heart.

Thank you for all you do!

Have a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and safe Holiday Season.

Respectfully,

Carl Cosack

NDACT 2011 Highlights

The hard work of the North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce along with tireless volunteers and other organizations who have weighed in with their concerns has certainly not gone unnoticed. The fight against the proposed mega- quarry has garnered substantial media attention and raised awareness and support worldwide.

Here is a quick review of some of the major events that took place during 2011.

March 11: Highland files application for mega quarry license with the Ministry of Natural Resources. Public has 45 days to comment. Demands to have more time to review the 3,100 pages of technical documents.

April 22-26: First Nations lead five day walk from Queen's Park to proposed quarry site.

April 26: Comment period extended for 75 days under the MOE. Comments build with more and more people and organizations going on record as showing support.

June 15: MP Michael Chong (Wellington-Halton Hills) voiced opposition to the proposed mega-quarry in the House of Commons.

June 16: In The Hills Magazine publishes "Birth of a Protest".

June 22: Liberal MPP Leeanna Pendergast (Kitchener-Conestoga) calls for a review of the Aggregate Resources Act and protection for Ontario's prime farmland.

June 29: Highland files application for emissions discharge approval. Public has 30 days to comment.

June 29: MOE files strong objection to mega- quarry with the MNR. A flurry of farmers markets, fairs and events throughout the summer!

July 3: Artists organize a Plein Air "Paint In" to support the fight by painting the beauty of the hills at risk.

July 6: Avaaz petition garnering 70,000 signatures in 24 hours and 134,000 overall.

Early July: Chefs come out against the proposed mega quarry.

July 8: MP Frank Valeriote (Guelph) stands up against the proposed quarry.

July 11: Highlands has 2 years to address in excess of 5,000 comments under the ARA and the EBR/MOE. Demands are made subject the quarry to an unprecedented environmental assessment.

July 17: Community Gathering in Orangeville.

July 21: First Nations lead rally at Queen's Park.

August 20: First Nations Water Ceremony.

August 28: Tractor Rally

September 1: MOE subjects the proposed quarry to an Environmental Assessment. This is unprecedented, as an EA has never prior to this time been required for a quarry.

September 15: In The Hills Magazine publishes a follow up story to Birth of a Protest: "Green Gravel".

September 20: The Liberal Party advises that a review of the Aggregate Resources Act will be undertaken.

September 30: First Nations leads a 2nd rally at Queen's Park.

October 16: FOODSTOCK-100 Chefs, a vast array of high profile musicians and an estimated 28,000 attendees participate in this event in Melancthon to show their support for the protest against the mega-quarry.

October 24: New McGuinty Cabinet introduces all new relevant Ministers (MNR, MOE, MOAFRA).

November 16: Foodstock Event wins 2 Hills of Headwaters Tourism Association awards- Best Agri-Tourism Experience and Best Culinary Experience.

December: NDACT issues Christmas Greeting card in the buff!

Please visit: <http://xplornet.com-dbaylis/mega-quarry/News%20History.htm>

List of Groups/Citizens Expressing Concern link:

<http://users.xplornet.com/~dbaylis/megaquarry/Concerned%20Citizens.htm>

NDACT COMMITTEES 2012

Our NDACT Committees now need more volunteers to help move our mutual cause forward!

As this grassroots movement grows, so do our responsibilities and duties. NDACT is growing its committee structure. If you are interested and able to help, we ask you to pick a committee that is of interest to you. Once you have chosen a committee and decided that you want to serve on it, either as a chair or as a member, please submit a short resume highlighting your strengths, qualifications and commitment. Resumes can be submitted to: info@ndact.com

The Committees that currently need volunteers are:

- 1) *Local Council Liaisons*, one for Mulmur, one for Melancthon and one for Dufferin County. Responsibilities include: regularly checking the agendas and raising our awareness of issues pertinent to our mission. To be prepared to ask questions of Council and make delegations on behalf of NDACT, as needed.
- 2) *First Nations Committee*: We need two members to help facilitate communications between NDACT and various First nations that are impacted directly by this proposal.

Please, I ask you to stay involved and become a more active part of the team so we can defeat the Highland Companies' proposal. Thank you for your understanding, support and actions.

Carl Cosack

UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENT 2012

Our Winter Information meeting will be held **Saturday, February 4th, 2012** in the North Dufferin Recreational Centre in Honeywood. The meeting will be held in the Norduff Room from 9:30-11:00am. The main topic will be the Environmental Assessment. A guest speaker announcement will be made in our next newsletter. As always, there will be time for questions.

Current Media Articles and Stories of Interest 2011

Visit <http://www.ndact.com/index.php/media-stories> to view all the latest updates and news stories. Join in on our discussions and Facebook stories at www.facebook.com/no.mega.quarry. We look forward to hearing from you.

Dec.19, 2011 Taters or Craters~100 Chefs Speak as One at Foodstock

Dec.15, 2011 Tilson and Jones Both Call For Action on Melancthon Quarry

Dec.15, 2011 North of the Border Bait and Switch Has Enviro Worried about S.B. Property:Cojo-Jalama Ranch's Canadian Connection

Dec.14, 2011 Artists Join NDACTS Fight Against the Mega Quarry



Dec.13, 2011 Full Explanation of EA and Timelines Requested of Minister of Environment Bradley

Dec.13, 2011 Special Aggregates Farmland Preservation Newsletter Fall/Winter 2011

CALL TO ACTION

A Quick Recap of Actions that you can do:

1. Bring in your Stop the Mega Quarry signs – put them in your car or front window to keep them protected over the winter. We will put them back on our lawns again on Earth Day (Sunday, April 22, 2012) to reaffirm our commitment en masse.
2. Contact Canada's Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Peter Kent requesting a Joint Review Panel. See above article for details. e-mail: minister@ec.gc.ca
3. Contact Ontario's new cabinet Ministers to familiarize them with the proposed mega quarry.
4. Join our *Weekly Call to Action* Campaign. Look to <http://www.facebook.com/no.mega.quarry> for the activity of the week.
5. Continue to spread the word! Public awareness and scrutiny is key to avoiding the mega mistake.

See you in the New Year!

A special thanks to Dennis Campbell for this fabulous photo!



PROTECT YOUR WATER and FOOD