



NDACT NEWSLETTER

NDACT BOARD

Chair: Carl Cosack
V-Chair: Rick Wallace

Board Members:

Ralph Armstrong
Rob Green
John Herndon
John Lever
Ted Metz
Dale Rutledge
Dave Vander Zaag
Norm Wolfson

Sec/Treas: Diane Cowen
 Volunteer coord: Donna Baylis
 Webmasters: D & S Sanford
 Contact: info@ndact.com
 Website: www.ndact.com

Foodstock Wins Awards

On November 16, 2011 Carl Cosack accepted the following awards on behalf of NDACT and on behalf of Chef Michael Stadtländer and the Canadian Chefs' Congress:

Hills of Headwaters Tourism Association - Taste of Tourism Awards

- ★ Best Agri-Tourism Experience
- ★ Best Culinary Tourism Experience

Congratulations to all who participated in Foodstock!

Foodstock – What an Event!

Foodstock was a huge event with so many people helping, donating, supporting, enjoying and attending. We are grateful to those involved, especially the host families who put up with more trouble and work than originally anticipated.

At our debrief committee meeting on November 8th, Diane French read the minutes from our very first organizing committee meeting and the first priority of Foodstock was to raise awareness by having as many people attend as possible. The second goal was not to lose any money since we had never under-taken such an event before. The third was to raise money to help finance the fight against the mega quarry proposal. I am delighted to report that all those goals were met and the success of Foodstock far exceeded our wildest hopes.

That success was due to the countless hours put in by volunteers, both in the city and in the country, proving that we can successfully work together to defeat this insane proposal. And what exceptional value was delivered by the great Chefs of the **Canadian Chefs' Congress (CCC)**, fabulous musicians and entertainers. Our grassroots fight for clean air, safe local food and precious water is in much better shape thanks to this event.

Foodstock raised, after CCC expenses and deductions, \$145,000 for the anti-mega quarry fight. Of that total \$20,000 is being held in trust for the **David Suzuki Foundation** to support the continuing fight against the mega quarry and \$18,500 was held back by CCC for future anti-quarry fundraising. To-date NDACT has received \$36,667 of the remaining \$106,500 with the balance held in trust.

There has never been a comparable event organized in this county and I sure learned a lot. As I was Vice Chair at the time, Dale and the NDACT board trusted me with representing NDACT and its supporters in all dealings with the CCC both during the planning stage and afterward at the debrief meeting, I take full responsibility for some of the organizational mistakes that were made and some of the debrief decisions that I made on behalf of NDACT and its supporters. There is no doubt in my mind that great value was delivered for every dollar that has been donated to Foodstock and I will give a full report at our annual meeting. If there are pressing questions before that meeting, please call me at 519-925-6628. I am in the office most evenings between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Continued ... page 2

Foodstock ... continued from page 1

I am very proud of everyone who contributed to this unforgettable event. Realistically we had about 3 months from the first committee meeting until October 16th. The unbelievable hard work and countless hours from so many people to make Foodstock happen, to spread awareness of the event, to build such a wonderful feeling of solidarity and greater community will never be forgotten!

As a side story, "Connie" who worked traffic control with me at Vander Zaag's laneway did something also unforgettable. I waved a SUV in to allow it to park, having recognized the people inside. Connie was the second 'check' in our system of either allowing vehicles in or just providing them with the room to turn around and leave again, stopped them again. My attention was drawn elsewhere for about 30 seconds and when I turned to see how she was doing, all I saw was her "rear end and legs" sticking out of the SUV, then pulling out of the vehicle with a handful of money. As the SUV drove down the laneway to park, I asked her "Connie, what are you doing?" She replied, "Well you told me to let them in but first they had to pay." I asked, "Do you know who they are?" She looked a little bewildered and said, "Nooooo!" I had to laugh out loud - she had just charged the members of the band **Blue Rodeo** to enter Foodstock so that they could play for free! What respect do I have for everyone, Connie for working so hard and the Blue Rodeo folks for not pulling "rank" or any other excuse but just paying up. That is such an example of the spirit of Foodstock!

Respectfully,
Carl Cosack

Full Steam Ahead at NDACT

A huge "Thank You" goes out to Dale Rutledge, NDACT's first Chair, who has guided this organisation from start-up to the present. With foresight, leadership and relentless determination Dale had helped to give this insane proposal, the one put forth by the Highland Companies, the widespread awareness it has throughout Ontario and further afield. Dale has, through factual knowledge and widespread consensus building, put us on the path to protect these Headwaters and Prime Farmlands forever.

I am very appreciative that he, in his new capacity as Past Chair, has agreed to join NDACT's Executive Committee and thus provide continuing guidance for the years ahead. As the new Chair of NDACT I will be looking to him to help us build on the success of the past three years. I am proud to serve this terrific grassroots organisation and look forward to working with Rick Wallace as the new Vice Chair and the other Board members who all have shown such strong commitment to our cause.

I ask you all to stay vigilant and be prepared to help. As this grassroots movement grows, so do our responsibilities and duties. NDACT is growing its committee structure. We will send another mailing out in about two weeks, naming new committees as well as the role and the expectations associated with them. We will 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, we will ask you to submit a short resume highlighting your strengths, qualifications and commitment. 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

Dalton McGuinty Assigns New Cabinet

Note the following key personnel changes to the provincial cabinet:

- Jim Bradley replaced John Wilkinson as Minister of the Environment
e-mail: minister.moe@ontario.ca
- Michael Gravelle replaced Linda Jeffrey as Minister of Natural Resources
e-mail: mnr.nric.mnr@ontario.ca
- Ted McMeekin replaced Carol Mitchell as Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
e-mail: minister.omafra@ontario.ca

Action Item: Contact the new Ministers and congratulate them on their win. Introduce them to the proposed mega quarry issue and remind them that this is a non-partisan concern that has potential impacts throughout Ontario.

Provincial Environmental Assessment

Many of the land use planning concepts currently in force in southern Ontario were conceived decades ago when the challenges faced were less complex, and at a time when there was less concern for the negative impacts that certain land uses might have on our environment. Today there are serious concerns about the environment, and food and water security that are shared by a growing number of Ontario's residents, yet our arcane planning laws seem to be stuck in the past. They often give priority to the building of highways, urban sprawl and the quarrying of aggregate, over concerns for close to market food production, clean and abundant water, and the protection of our environment.

As an example, many Ontarians would be shocked to know that a provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) is not legislatively required in connection with an application for a proposed quarry – not even for a below the water table quarry.

Well, pat yourselves on the back – we have already taken a giant step! Through the efforts of our membership and a growing number of Ontarians that became concerned with the unprecedented size, scope and potential environmental issue that could be caused by this proposed mega quarry, our provincial government has passed a regulation requiring the proposal be subject to an EA.

This is a big step in the right direction. The EA process gives the public a larger participatory role in the review of this application, and hopefully subjects the Highland application to a higher level of environmental scrutiny.

We would also like to get the federal government involved. Triggers for a federal EA include First Nations involvement, Canada's food security, fisheries, at-risk wildlife and trans-boundary waters.

Logically, we know that Melancthon is not the place for this mega quarry. Strategically, we are asking Canada's Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Peter Kent, for a **Joint Review Panel** to be struck under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* to ensure both provincial and federal interests are covered.

For additional information, check the following links:

For those of you who have questions, please follow the below link and click on the "Frequently Asked Questions" at the left hand side of the window. The Ministry website is quite useful and we hope the information helps you to understand more about the process and how you can engage.

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/industry/assessment_and_approvals/environmental_assessments/index.htm

<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/media/news/2011/09/david-suzuki-foundation-applauds-quarry-decision/>

[Canadian Environmental Assessment Act](#)

CALL TO ACTION

Admittedly after the excitement and work that went into Foodstock it has taken a few weeks to wrap up and wind down. We are now ready to go again! To take advantage of the winter downtime between events the following are on the To Do list:

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. See page 2 for further details.
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 this mega mistake.

UPCOMING EVENT

Sunday, November 27, 2011 at 7:30pm

SKSS Productions is pleased to present **WATER WAY**, a multi-discipline performance event at the George Luscombe Theatre, University of Guelph.

Benefiting:

- ★ Wellington Water Watchers (www.wellingtonwaterwatchers.ca)
- ★ North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce (www.ndact.com)
- ★ Citizens' Alliance United for a Sustainable Environment (www.nomegaquarry.ca)

Tickets are \$20 (plus handling) available at:

Ground Floor Music

<http://www.groundfloormusic.ca>

13 Quebec St.

Guelph, ON N1H 2T1

519-827-1444

For more information, please contact

Sue Smith 519-837-2303 info@suesmith.ca

Shannon Kingsbury 519-763-8104 shannon.kingsbury@sympatico.ca

PROTECT YOUR WATER and FOOD