

**From:** Council of Canadians

**To:** sumorton@rogers.com

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2011 4:59 PM

**Subject:** Your help needed to stop proposed mega-quarry by July 10



# Stop the Mega Quarry!

## Take action today!

Dear Council of Canadians members,

Back in April, we asked you to write the provincial government to demand an extension of the comment period on the proposed mega-quarry in Melancthon Township. More than 1,800 fellow Council of Canadians members did just that, helping to convince the government to push back the deadline under the Environmental Bill of Rights. Thank you!

Now your voice is needed once again. We have just five days left to let them know what we think of the plan to dig a mega-quarry and in the process destroy thousands of acres of prime Ontario farmland and damage the headwaters of five major river systems.

The mega-quarry has been proposed in Melancthon Township on Highway 124 just north of Shelburne. The Highland Companies (owned by a Boston hedge fund) has filed an application for a 2,400-acre aggregate mine, which would make it the largest quarry in Ontario and the second largest in North America. This precious land is the "rooftop of Ontario" running along the border of the Niagara Escarpment. For many months, the Council of Canadians has been working with local groups to stop this open pit mine because of the extraordinary impacts it will have on neighbouring communities, watersheds, Ontario's food supply and the drinking water of more than one million people.

**Join the fight to protect this precious land and water! **ACT NOW** to have your voice heard – THE DEADLINE is midnight on Sunday July 10th.**

FOOD and WATER vs. PROFIT

The Highlands company started buying farmland in Melancthon several years ago, claiming they wanted to become the province's largest potato growing operation, which made sense to local farmers as the area is well known for its particularly high quality soil and micro-climate. About one quarter of all the potatoes eaten in the Greater Toronto Area come from there. After many local farmers had sold their farms – some of which had been in the family for generations – the real motives of the company became apparent. Under that rich and rare soil is a fortune in high quality limestone worth upwards of eight billion dollars. The company now owns around 8,000 acres of land and has applied for permission to mine 2,400 acres which would make it the second largest quarry in North America. There is little doubt that they intend to excavate the entire 8,000+ acres. To do so, Highland

will strip off all that precious soil then blast their way down more than 200 feet BELOW the water table.

From the area around the proposed mine site spring the headwaters of river systems that are important drinking water sources for more than one million people downstream. The Nottawasaga River, the Grand River and the Pine River systems will all be threatened by the mine's 600 million litre per day dewatering pumps. Massive amounts of toxic demolition explosives will be used to smash the limestone and hundreds of dump trucks per hour will enter and leave the site – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The company rightly points out that this is all allowable under Ontario's aggregate extraction laws but the problem is that those laws couldn't be more favourable to the industry or more rigged against communities that want to protect their water.

### **PLEASE GET INVOLVED**

Support our allies: We have been working with the North Dufferin Agricultural & Community Taskforce (NDACT) and the Citizen's Alliance for a Sustainable Environment (CAUSE) and we ask you to consider supporting them as well. Please visit their websites: [www.ndact.com](http://www.ndact.com) and [www.citizensalliance.ca](http://www.citizensalliance.ca).

Click [here](#) before the end of the day on Sunday July 10th (midnight) to make your comment on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry.

Every comment counts! You can write as much or as little as you like, but please voice your objection to the mega-quarry.

If you have any questions about the comment process or the quarry proposal, contact Mark Calzavara, Ontario Regional Organizer for the Council of Canadians, at [mark@canadians.org](mailto:mark@canadians.org) or 1-800-208-7156.

Thank you! Your renewed attention and support will once again make an important difference in this campaign.

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