

# **NDACT - Call to Action**

## **Call to Action - We need your help and participation with the Review of the Melancthon Official Plan. Please support us and consider your future**

The proposed new Township of Melancthon Official Plan has been prepared and you have until March 29th to submit written comments to affect change. Even if you cannot make a submission by this date please let the Township know what you think as soon as you can.

NDACT retained a professional planner and has submitted its own review letter outlining concerns on behalf of its membership – Melancthon ratepayers need to also be heard and make sure we have an Official Plan that protects our interests and the kind of future development we want for our community and our children.

NDACT has raised many concerns with the present proposed official plan. The following summarizes a few key concerns:

- The Official Plan is generic in nature. We believe that it should be a vision for the future directed by Council on behalf of the people of this Township; not a generic plan generated by a planner that could fit any municipality. It needs to be a vision for the next 20 years. There is no future vision statement in this plan.
- Section 4.2.2 b ii gives aggregates priority over agriculture - given the other policies in the plan this blatant statement is not required for the plan to conform the provincial policy - is this the Township's position? If so this should be of concern to all of us since this type of plan will lead to an extractive

industrialization of the Township at the expense of our water, agriculture, natural resources, cultural, recreational and many other community assets that we cherish and expect that our elected representatives will protect through this plan.

- Given the nature of Melancthon Township and the fact that agriculture is biggest economic force in the Township and covers the majority of the land, it is essential that the policies in the plan to protect Agriculture are strong, effective and current – they are not.
- The Township has the opportunity to recognize and add additional protection to the best agricultural areas in the Township, but Section 4.2.6 c) defers the local ability to classify locally significant crop areas until the province establishes evaluation criteria. The province has already confirmed at a public meeting in Melancthon that this is not necessary. The municipality can proceed on it's own to designate a locally significant specialty crop area as the Township of Mulmur has just done in their new Official Plan. There is no recognition of the application for specialty crop areas that was submitted by NDACT a year ago. This is frustrating since all of the requirements that are set out in Section 4.2.6 of the plan for locally significant areas were submitted and according to the province, were properly completed.
- Aggregate Policies – the proposed policies lack the substance to protect the Municipality. The Township needs to ensure that policies are in place to prioritize uses, control the impact of development and protect it's residents, our history, culture and resources.

- There is a lack of background work to evaluate our most significant resources (for example: natural resources, agricultural, cultural, historic, among many others)
- There are lots of requirements for studies to support applications for development, but no specific locally based policies establishing the specific local criteria that will be applied to evaluate the findings.

To view comments on Melancthon's Official Plan by Planscape, NDACT's Planner. please go to:

<http://www.ndact.com/images/letters/walton-op-comments-mar.12.pdf>

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon is requesting the Public to provide written comments on the March 2012 Draft Official Plan **by 12 noon on Thursday, March 29, 2012**. The written comments which will be provided to Council in their Agenda Package (and posted on the website) will be reviewed at the Thursday, April 5, 2012 Council meeting at 1:00 p.m. when Jerry Jordan, Township Planner will be in attendance to further review the **Draft** Official Plan. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Holmes, CAO [.dholmes@melancthontownship.ca](mailto:.dholmes@melancthontownship.ca)

**To read full details, please go to:**

<http://www.ndact.com/index.php/how-can-i-help/weekly-call-to-action-letter-writing/51-how-can-i-help-call-to-action-letter-writing/380-call-to-action-comments-on-melancthons-official-plan-by-march-29-2012>