



**Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice**

*A national faith-based organization founded in support of Unitarian values*

P.O. Box 40011, Ottawa, ON, K1V 0W8

President, Rev. Frances Deverell

president@cusj.org

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Mr. Craig Laing  
Aggregate Resources Officer  
Ontario Ministry of National Resources  
2284 Nursary Road,  
Midhurst, Ontario, L0L 1X0

The Highland Companies,  
P.O. Box 377  
Shelburne, ON, L0N 1S0

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you to express my opposition to the proposed limestone quarry by Highland Companies and funded by the Baupost Hedge Fund. The business leaders of our world seem to think, these days, that the larger the project, the better it is. From an environmental perspective large projects are a total disaster. They completely destroy whole ecosystems and cause far more environmental damage than anyone can imagine when they start something like this.

- To demolish a 2316 acre area of prime farm land and, by doing so, to destroy the natural filtration system that forms the headwaters for two major watersheds (Nottawasaga Valley and Grand Valley) and three sub watersheds (Pine, Boyne, Mad and Noisy) is completely unacceptable.

This project will likely affect the quality of the ground water in all three of the sub watersheds. It will use 600 million litres of water daily and then reinject dirty water into the main aquifer. What assessment has been done to see what impact that will have on agriculture in this area? What right do they have to come in and use that quantity of water, threatening the availability and quality of water for all those around it? It is completely unacceptable to implement projects that will have such a large impact. Millions of people are ultimately dependent on these watersheds for their drinking water.

In addition there will be huge impacts on the quality of life of the residents in the area. There will be huge amounts of daily truck traffic, travelling through school zones and disrupting local traffic. Traffic to cottage country will be negatively impacted. How many greenhouse gases will

we produce in order to implement this massive project, at a time when we want to keep land in agricultural production as a hedge against greenhouse gases.

I was particularly disappointed to read that Highland Companies amassed this land under false pretences. They persuaded farmers to sell their land by promising to grow potatoes. They obviously knew that the people of this region would not want this quarry and would not want to give up the beauty, fertility, and value of their landscape, so near to the Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO World Heritage site. They did not come to Ontario in good faith, with a good economic proposal that respects the people and the land.

Just because somebody has the potential to make a great deal of money does not justify the risks to the ecosystem and the people, animals and plants who live in it. Just because the limestone is there does not mean that we should take it all for our own use. The limestone serves its own purposes as a natural water filtration system and we do not tamper with that on such a massive scale without long term disastrous consequences.

I appeal to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to stop this project before it goes any further.

Sincerely yours

Rev. Frances Deverell  
President,  
Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

Cc Premier McGuinty