

## **Overview Slide**

### **LOCATION (first slide)**

1) Melancton Township is located in the County of Dufferin, about half way between Orangeville and Collingwood.

The application site borders the Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO Biosphere. It encompasses the highest elevation in southern Ontario and Highland's landholdings are home to, the Source Waters of the Grand, Mad, Boyne and Noisy Rivers and the Pine River sub watershed which feeds the Nottawasaga River. Water runs north, south, east and west from Dufferin County.

### **(second slide)**

The site is part of an app. 15000 acre parcel of contiguous soil of Class 1 farmland, registered in the Canadian Soil Registry as Honeywood Loam, and the area grows huge volumes of vegetables like potatoes, brussel sprouts, beans, peas, small grains, corn, alfalfa and alike, in other words, all foods that the Golden Horseshoe residents eat.

### **The Highland Companies (third slide)**

The proponent, also known as 3191574 Nova Scotia Company, who's head office is 1063 King Street West, Hamilton, ON L8S 4S3 Suite 234, which is a UPS store and a mailbox, is backed by the Boston based 22 Billion \$Baupost Hedge fund, lead by Seth Klarman.

### **(slide 4)**

They bought the land, about 7500 acres of it, starting in 2006 under the pretense that they wanted to become Ontario's largest grower and packer of potatoes. A story published by the Orangeville Banner in 2007 that drew attention to the then rumour that there was aggregate development being planned, statements were

made by Michael Daniher and Trevor Downey on behalf of the Highland Companies, that growing potatoes was all they were interested in.

**(slide 5)**

To grow potatoes, some 30 or so farmsteads had to give way, effectively depopulating some of the township and removing opposition, people that would have clearly been opposed to potato farming and thus a threat to Highland's prosperity. No sarcasm here!!

**4)The Issues (slide 6)**

This Mega application has highlighted the conflicts within the Provincial Policy Statement. Giving Aggregate top priority as a policy creates these stresses within the PPS

- Local Food vs destruction of 1000's of acres of class 1 Farmland
- Clean Air (no coal power) vs the use of 24 tonnes of explosives daily and adding exhaust of 7200 trucks a day to the air in southern Ontario
- The development of Tourism as a desirable and sustainable industry vs industrial excavation on a scale that includes putting those 7200 tractor trailers on the same roads that funnel traffic to Collingwood and the rest of Ontario's tourism playground.

**(slide 7)**

- Source Water Protection vs 600.000.000 liters of water being 'managed' (means pumped) in perpetuity

At issue is that we cannot turn those life sustaining resources into this **(slide 8)**

At issue is that we have the obligation to protect our ecosystem **(slide 9)**,

-our Source Water **(slide 10)**, and I draw your attention to the fact that all these pictures were taken within

the application site or within a couple of kilometers of it.

-and our food producing class 1 farmland **(slide 11)**,

-society has the right to safe local food **(slide 12)**

-and communities have the right to safeguard their way of life **(slide 13)**

These issues will become a top priority to all those who breathe, drink water and eat food. Safeguarding Ontario's countryside will again become the backbone for Ontario's prosperity.

## **5) Growing support for effective policies (slide 14)**

Jim Harris wrote in his report from Davos, Switzerland.

"A staggering [92 per cent of millennials](#) (those born after 1981) believe that a company's purpose should be measured by social purpose not just profit."

The public is truly engaging, Michael Stadlaender has led the charge from way back in the mid to late 80's when Peace Valley Ranch first started to supply his Nekka restaurant in Toronto with local beef, and the fabulous Canadian Chef's Congress who was instrumental in helping to put on "Foodstock" **(slide 15)** 28000 people showed their support for all the issues highlighted earlier, making an emphatic statement on a cold Oct day that they want policies to reflect their priorities. To the best of our knowledge FOODSTOCK was the largest food protest ever held in Canada; truly stepping up to the lyrics of our National Anthem "we stand on guard for thee".

## 6) Government Process and Policy Change (slide 16)

"Capitalism, in its current form, no longer fits the world." A statement from an occupy protester? No, it was uttered by WEF Founder Klaus Schwab.

Business leaders already know that, Governments already know that.

I have always believed that those who run for public office truly run to make their communities better. We all know it is a complicated world out there, yet everyone owes to remember that policies should be governed by sustainable goals. From local government, through provincial government and all the way to the federal level, let's create policies that respect people. GDP cannot be the **only** way we measure success. Prosperity cannot be achieved by the sacrifice of life essential food, air and water. Let us challenge ourselves to shape policy that creates cooperation rather than conflict. In this case, the Mega Quarry case, why not identify the resources needed and allow communities that host these resources to bid on becoming the home for their development? I can add more to that thought, but Matt told me 10 min, NO more, so if you are willing to discuss this I will be here until 3 p.m.

Why not look at other jurisdictions that are not as rich in Dolostone, how do they built infrastructure? Look around your life today and tell me what do you see that is done the same way today as it was 50 years ago?

**(slide 17)** Things are changing, as is evident by the announcement of the EA.

Province wide policy that protects Prime Farmland and Source Water cannot be far behind,

**(slide 18)** matter of fact, a federal water policy is urgently needed, as is a federal food policy. Both are under discussion, so please bring your planning expertise and progressive thought to how you can help create a better world. Let us all start each day finding ways to have our own talents contribute to a better way.

**(slide 19)** And I want to leave you with this quote attributed to no one in particular:

"We do not get to choose how others walk in their shoes, but we absolutely choose how we walk in ours.!!!!!!"

Thank you!

1.If you could change one policy at the provincial level, what would it be?

Planning Policy and the mechanism around it!

Remember the quote from Jim Harris.

"A staggering [92 per cent of millennials](#) (those born after 1981) believe that a company's purpose should be measured by social purpose not just profit."

Nobody here would go back to slavery, yet at the time of **that** change fundamental policy change was needed. In the horse world, it used to be that we would break a horse's spirit to force compliance, today we understand that we have to craft that relationship in a way where that horse see us, the human, as the safest place for it to be, grow, live and work, and when we as trainers achieve that, it accepts training and work willingly. As Cowboys we are saying that 'bucking' is a learned behaviour, therefore if we do it right, a horse would be a highly trained horse without ever having bucked someone off, ever! Think about that!

We need a fundamental paradigm shift. Right now we practice policy development/compliance where the automatic outcome is the OMB, one way or the other. That attitude requires nothing of us as industry or politician, it disempowers the very people democracy is supposed to serve. In the end we know the current process is so expensive and cumbersome that it is blatantly unfair to the people, and policy should serve the people.

Let us create a planning document that would eliminate the OMB hearing as the final decision maker for certain types of projects. Right now industry and government conduct themselves always knowing that the OMB is there and that knowledge requires very little creative thought of both. As an example, because this Mega project seems to create the space for true and honest thought and action, why not make a community referendum, not that municipalities Council, the fundamental decision maker?(There are details to this I would be happy to discuss, if time allows) Would that not initiate a negotiated proposal? Would that not eliminate Commerce without Conscience, eliminate this constant everyone against everyone, an attitude that does not serve government, industry or communities? Communities have earned the right to decide on proposals that will alter their very existence, an existence, as it is in this case, that has been carved out over more than a 150 years. In the end the decision should lie in a negotiate settlement with elected cabinet, not the OMB, holding the ultimate say therefore building true accountability into the most desirable form of government, democracy. That is a policy/amendment I would like to see!!

What trend gives you the most hope that we can effectively balance land uses and sustain agriculture in Ontario's countryside?

Remember Klaus Schwab's quote, the founder of the World Economic Forum:

"Capitalism, in its current form, no longer fits the world."

The public, from students to chefs, from farmers to academia, from policy makers to politicians of all stripes and levels of government are putting efforts together to make 'Safe local Food and fresh Water" a priority. People everywhere are connecting the dots and start to understand that our own life's sustainability, life as we have come to know it and to live it, depends on some very fragile but very essential, fundamental resources. Preservation of our "Food and Water" resources is top priority. Policies in other nations have recognized that the government's first priority is feeding its people, they have endured riots and shortages, by having availability of food and fresh water not guaranteed, they seek it with abandon.

The people of this province are taking an ownership in where their food is grown, they are connecting the dots of life; that is what gives me great hope that fundamental change is close and Ontario's countryside once again will be valued for its sustainable contribution to society's prosperity. That is the trend that gives me the most hope!!

