

An Update on Mining Proposals and Preliminary Work in Limerick Township

BY Peggy Stewart - President Wollaston Home and Cottage Association

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I have been sent information updating the developments regarding the McBride Mining Project centred largely on Limerick Township but affecting all Townships to the south and west. Background information has been previously included in the first posting about this development on the WLHCA website. There may be an impact on the waterways and environment in Wollaston Township. I encourage you to consider signing the petition mentioned below by going on the Limerick Area Conservation Coalition LACC Facebook page.

I have received an email from Pat Stallaert, President of Steenburg Lake Community Association, outlining a report on the Sept. 9th information meeting on the mine that was held at Limerick Community Centre. I tried to attend but the cars were parked at least a half a Kilometer along the road outside the Limerick Community Centre and there was very little hope of getting in. Instead, my husband and I drove around the perimeter of the area that would be affected by the mining and it was immense. Attendance by members of the Wollaston Lake community was recognized in the report for swelling the numbers to over 300. The report indicated it was rather tense early on as it became evident the representatives of Pancon Resources had no intention of sharing any real specifics about the project, but offered only platitudes to try and appease the many residents and property owners they had disrespected. There were however excellent presentations made by Mining Watch Canada and the Chief of the Alderville First Nation that left little doubt that this was the wrong project, in the wrong place, lead by the wrong players. Members are encouraged to review all the information that has been amassed on the McBride Mining Project, including the full hour video of the meeting and a detailed report issued by Mining Watch Canada, as well as all media reports from local newspapers and CHEX TV, Peterborough.

These are available through the website www.minestoppers.com. There you will find links to the Limerick Area Conservation Coalition (LACC) Facebook page as well as an online petition with approximately 2000 signatures already! We encourage everyone to sign and share the petition through social media.

In recent weeks since the September 9th meeting, the LACC has been working to formalize it's structure, and attend to some organizational tasks that they had no time to deal with in the days leading up to the public information meeting.

The key members of the LACC have chosen to remain a smaller grass roots type of group and as such, the lake associations will not be joining LACC, but will work with them where appropriate and helpful in opposing mining in the area. The head of LACC and Pat Stallaert said that they would stay in touch and provide new information as it becomes available.

Many of neighbouring lake associations have agreed to work together in this common cause, and have each appointed representatives to a special joint committee to combat this threat. WLHCA has not appointed a representative yet. I have been acting as the liaison at present but this could require ongoing and focused attention and would benefit from the attention of one person. Please consider volunteering for this. I would very much like to hear from you.

The associations included are: Shawano Ratepayers Inc (Dickey, Pearch, Lost and Lake of Islands Lakes), Thanet Lake, Limerick Waterways Ratepayers Association (Limerick, Mephisto and St. Ola Lakes), Tri-Lakes (Robinson, Spring and Brinklow Lakes), Crowe Lake Waterways Association, and of course Steenburg Lake Community Association. We are hoping to set up a conference call before the end of the month, and we would love to have someone from WLHCA join us.

Pat also added, one fact that became very clear in all of this is that not only do several creeks from this potential mining area flow towards Wollaston Lake, $\frac{2}{3}$ of the massive mineral reserve area as designated on the County's Official Plan, extends into Wollaston Township towards Wollaston Lake. If a mine were ever established in the Limerick area, it isn't much of stretch of the imagination to see similar projects extend further west towards Wollaston Lake.

Pat was gratified to see all the lake associations come together to fight this common threat, and certainly hopes that Wollaston Lake Home and Cottage Association will join them.

.Monica Nicopoulos - The Limerick Area Conservation Coalition (LACC)

Additional information has been sent to me by Monica Nicopoulos. She reports that Pancon's stock reached up to a high of 0.14 in 2017 and fell 57% to it's current 0.06. It's also fallen over 30% from 2018's high of 0.09.

On their website Pancon also makes no mention that the McBride Project is suspended pending First Nation's Species At Risk Assessment.

She reports that Pancon's original plan, had it not been for First Nation's intervention, was for mechanized stripping this fall and to mobilize heavy equipment this winter while the waters were frozen for pitting/trenching and more core samples. Pancon's "Men Working" signs on Old Hastings Road may have been taken down recently to accommodate the seasonal hunters this fall, as the mining company stated that the mining activities would not impact hunting this year.

LACC is still looking for donations to assist with upcoming legal expenses against the battle to preserve our water and keep our environment undamaged and peaceful. Please forward this to family and friends. Every little bit helps!! <https://www.gofundme.com/limerickarea-conservation-coalition> LACC is also looking for volunteers to help out with fundraising ideas,

events, and promoting/monitoring our GoFundMe and Facebook pages <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LACCMineStoppers>.

Monica emphasizes that while the immediate threat of blasting and heavy trucks, poisoned lakes and well water are not right around the corner, we still need to inform MNDM (Ministry Northern Development Mines) that environmentally and socially this mine is not acceptable. **MNDM will either renew or cancel Mr. McBride's explorations Plan May 6, 2019.** If they cancel any Plans/Permits due to pressure from this community, the mine issue will be dead.

Below I have included the website of Pancon Resources Mining Company where there is further information about the company, and the President and CEO, Layton Croft, that is worthwhile viewing. Plans for the Limerick area are outlined under McBride under the title Projects.
www.panconresources.com