

## Battle brewing over mine south of Bancroft

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A public meeting and information meeting regarding a proposed nickel, cobalt and copper mining operation south of Bancroft will take place Sunday, Sept. 9 at 4 p.m. at the Limerick Township Community Center.

LIMERICK TOWNSHIP – There’s a battle brewing in this tiny cottage community south of Bancroft over a proposed nickel, cobalt and copper mine. Monica Nikopoulos of the Limerick Area Conservation Coalition (LACC) claims there has been no written notification of the activities being undertaken by Dr. Derek McBride, P.Eng, an international mineral deposit specialist with Derek McBride Geological & Management Services, who owns the mineral rights to the area south of Hwy 620, west of Old Hastings Road near Ormsby and stretching east to Hwy 62.

A public meeting and information session is being hosted by Pancontinental Resources Corporation (Pancon) Sunday, Sept. 9 at 4 p.m. at the Limerick Community Centre. “We are diligently trying to bring awareness about this mine, the destruction it’ll cause in this prime cottage country area, with endangered species habitats, significant ground water recharge areas that flow into resident’s wells and rivers/lakes, endangered fish, and this is also the “Land Between” area, hunting and deer wintering habitat,” said Nikopolous. “According to Hastings County’s official plan it’s a significant endangered species area.” According to Pancon’s website, Pancon entered into an option agreement effective April 25, 2018 with Hastings Highlands Resources Limited (Hastings) to earn up to 76 per cent of the McBride Nickel-Cobalt-Copper Project located in Limerick Township, 25 km south of Bancroft. If Hastings, a private company, chooses not to fund its share of the joint venture after 76 per cent is earned, Pancon can fully fund the joint venture and increase its ownership to 90 per cent. The McBride Project covers 880 hectares and contains historical resources of an estimated 5.1 million tons of near-surface nickel-cobalt-copper mineralization. The Project is proximal to the Canadian National Railway network, providing the opportunity to cost effectively transport future concentrate to the nearest nickel smelting facility, in Sudbury. Nikopoulos said she first learned of the project while inspecting her property. “I was checking our north driveway where there are signs that say ‘Please Don’t Trespass’ and found ATV tracks. He (McBride) and his four summer students were line cutting on my property. I was to be notified in writing as were other cottagers and we weren’t,” Nikopoulos said.

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