

## McBride Mining Project

We have been advised that a mining exploration company, Hasting Highlands Resources, has recently partnered with Pancontinental Resources Inc of North Carolina (traded on the TSX as PUC), and are actively exploring a large, 880 h tract of land just south of highway 620 and just east of Old Hastings Road. The target of their exploration is nickel, cobalt and copper, metals that have become in high demand because of current and projected needs to satisfy the growing global electric vehicle market. These metals are used in the production of rechargeable batteries in everything from cell phones and laptops to power tools and automobiles.

This is not the first time that Dr. Derek McBride P. Geo, has been in the area trying to actively promote this mine site. His efforts date back to at least 2004 but the market conditions at that time were not favourable to support the project. Now there is a very real risk that huge areas of sensitive wetlands and habitat may be destroyed if only by the initial exploration work which would include stripping and trenching long swaths of land. In addition to the damage done to natural wildlife and vegetation which may include several species at risk, these marches and slow moving streams form a critical water recharge for the headwaters of the Crowe Valley basin.

If a mine is permitted to proceed, the impact to ground water, surface water, land and soil could be enormous and far reaching. The sound from blasting and open pit mining operations would carry for miles around, and the constant traffic of heavy trucks and mining equipment on the area roads and highways would take a serious toll on the areas limited infrastructure. Property values in the neighboring freshwater lakes would be significantly impacted. The environmental impacts of metal mining, and nickel mining in particular, are well documented.

We urge all members of the affected communities to attend an information session being hosted by Pancontinental Resources Inc, at the Limerick Community Centre on Sunday, September 9th at 4 pm. Come out and learn more about the project, ask your questions and voice your concerns. Contact your local municipal leaders and candidates and share your concerns with them, in this an election year. Take a stand!

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I hope that you can post this message quickly, and help get the word out. Shawano RI (Dickey Lake), LWRA (Limerick Lake), Tri-Lakes (Robinson, Spring and Brinklow Lakes) have already taken action and are working with your friends in the SLCA (Steenburg Lake) and other concerned citizens and land owners in the area. I hope to see you and your members at the meeting. We also recommend that those who have identifiable garments like hats and T-shirts from their respective lake associations, wear them proudly to the meeting. Let's give the meeting organizers a clear message that we are many, we are strong, and we are resolute in defending our beautiful communities!

Sincerely,

Pat Stallaert President – Steenburg lake Community Association [president@steenburglake.com](mailto:president@steenburglake.com)